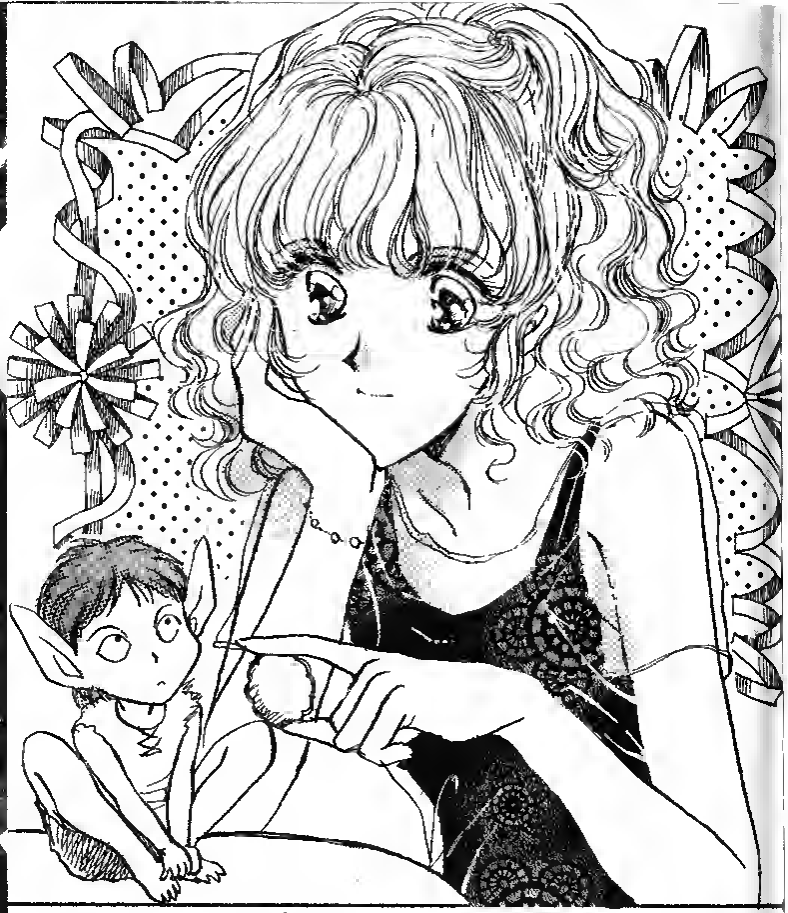
Ok, so heres release Numero Trio.
I've been working on it for about the last 2 hours.
Ive taken like, 20 breaks in between.
And so you know,
I'm going to be releasing as they finish,
Until i get bored, in which case I'll release them
En masse. So, Volume 1 of King of cards.
Its awesome. I only wish that i had money
for volumes 3 and 4+... You know, Money matters.
Ya.... Anyways... If you have any suggestions,
and of course, you matter, You can make one to me,
You should know who i am, and where to find me.

Date mark.
Tuesday, July 22nd, 1:52 pm CST

Oni

Burning penguin.
Doing the
Mangas you
don't want to.
Poorly drawn [illegible] is [illegible] drawn.
Please do not distribute outside of Ire.
If you like this series, please
Buy the manga when you can,
I know you're all poor, and live in
your parents basement, and
probably buying porn
Btw, Do not upload outside of IRC
Without my permission...
You know where to find me.
Oni

1
KING
OF CARDS
MAKOTO TATENO



KING OF CARDS

Volume 1

By Makoto Tateno

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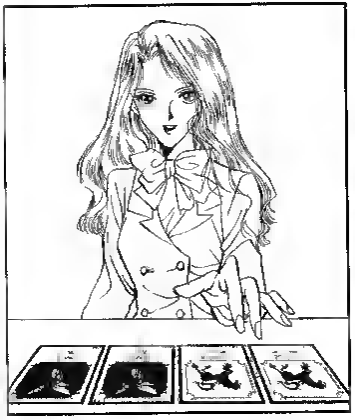
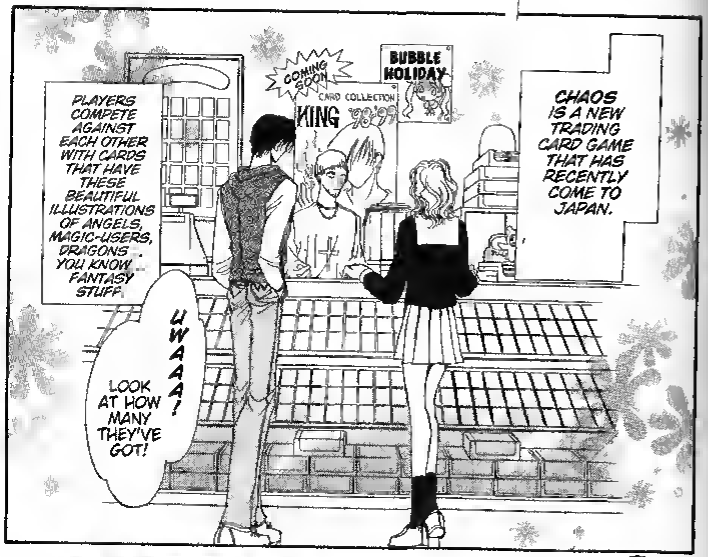
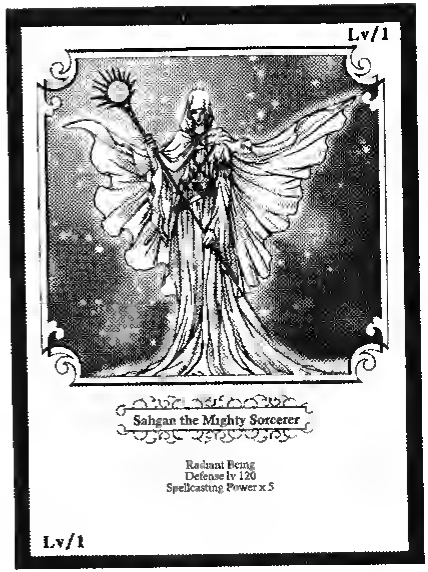


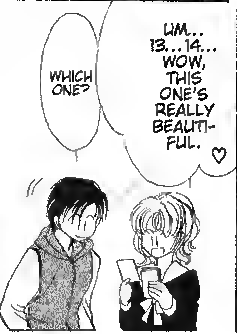

PLAYERS COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER WITH CARDS THAT HAVE THESE BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATIONS OF ANGELS, MAGIC-USERS, DRAGONS . . . YOU KNOW . . . FANTASY STUFF.
COMING SOON
BUBBLE HOLIDAY
CARD COLLECTION
KING
CHAOS IS A NEW TRADING CARD GAME THAT HAS RECENTLY COME TO JAPAN.
UWAAA!
LOOK AT HOW MANY THEY'VE GOT!

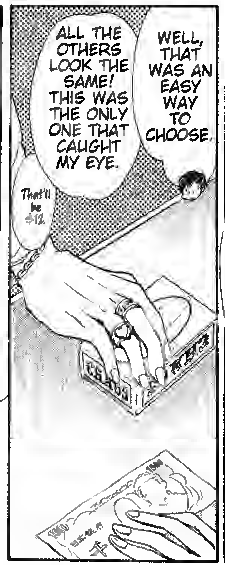
I'M MANAMI MINAMI. IT'S THIS GUY'S FAULT THAT I'M INTERESTED IN CHAOS. HE'S MY COUSIN...
WHICH ONE ARE YOU GONNA GO WITH, MANAMI?
MMM...
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM?
...TAMOTSU KAZAMA. HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL'S GAMING CLUB...


Lv/1
Sahgan the Mighty Sorcerer
Radiant Being
Defense lv 120
Spellcasting Power x 5
Lv/1

F.L.P. COLLECTION
F.L.P. COLLECTION
CHAOS
F.L.P. COLLECTION

WAIT A SEC. COUNT HOW MANY CARDS THERE ARE, JUST TO BE SURE.
The heart is pounding, getting quicker before!
Ahh


UM... 13...14... WOW, THIS ONE'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL. ♡
WHICH ONE?


WELL, THAT WAS AN EASY WAY TO CHOOSE.
ALL THE OTHERS LOOK THE SAME! THIS WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAUGHT MY EYE.
That'll be 412.
CHAOS

UM, THAT ONE CHAOS BOX, MIXED WITH THE OTHER STUFF ...
HUH? OH. YEAH, I SEE IT. WONDER HOW IT GOT SHELVED THERE.
WOULD SOMEONE HAVE SLIPPED IT THERE ON PURPOSE, TO DRAW ATTENTION?
OKAY, I'LL BITE. I'LL TAKE THAT ONE

...AND A CHAOS EXPERT. HE EVEN PLAYED IN THE NATIONAL TOURNAMENT.
THIS IS THE BEGINNER'S SET. IT'S GOT YOUR FOUNDATION CARDS, BASICALLY JUST ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO PLAY A MATCH
HUH. SO IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH ONE OF THESE I CHOOSE?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
CHAOS
CHAOS

THERE'S A LOT OF OVERLAP IN THE BEGINNER'S SETS, BUT THEN AGAIN, THERE MIGHT JUST BE A RARE CARD THROWN INTO THE MIX.
THE MOMENT YOU SELECT YOUR CARDS IS THE MOMENT YOUR LUCK IS PUT TO THE TEST.

Hmmm... which one? which one?
so just go ahead and pick one!
OF COURSE, THE CHANCES OF THAT ARE JUST SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN WINNING THE LOTTERY.

WHAT'S THAT CARD DOING IN THERE?!
CARD
HITS
WITH TRADING CARDS, THE VALUE RANGES FROM COMMON TO UNCOMMON TO RARE TO SUPER-RARE.
AND THIS CARD IS ONE OF THOSE?
MOST OF THE PRECIOUS, "SUPER-RARE" CARDS HAVE SUPERIOR OFFENSIVE AND/OR DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES.
AND OF COURSE, THEIR RARITY MAKES CARD ENTHUSI-ASTS DROOL OVER THE PROSPECT OF FINDING 'EM

SEE?
"SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SOR-CERER." ♡
WHAT?
Sahgan the Mighty Sorcerer
Radiant Bang
Defense lv 120
Spellcasting Power x 5
Lv/1
WHA ...?

HELLO.

TATENO HERE. THANK YOU FOR GETTING YOUR HANDS ON A COPY OF "KING OF CARDS."

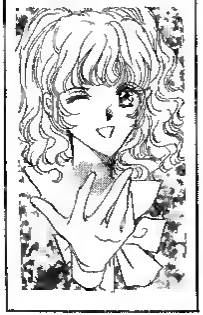
I'M CHALLENGING MYSELF WITH THIS MANGA. THE BACKDROP OF WHICH IS THE WORLD OF TRADING CARD GAMES. IT'S A SUBJECT I'M SORELY IGNORANT ABOUT, BUT AM I AFRAID? NAHHH...

I CONCOCTED ALL THE RULES MYSELF, BUT THEY'RE GENERALLY BASED ON POKER.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THIS WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE A ONE-SHOT STORY, BUT THANKS TO YOU, THE READERS, I'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO MAKE IT INTO A PROPER SERIES.

WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE CAME MY DESIRE TO MAKE THE GAME EVEN MORE COMPLEX, WHICH I KNOW PUTS MY NECK ON THE LINE. IT'S DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH THE RULES, BUT I LOVE THINKING ABOUT THE MATCHES.

I'VE BEEN CONSULTING TCG RULEBOOKS AND READING BOOKS ON MYTHOLOGY OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR INSPIRATION, BUT IF ANY OF YOU OUT THERE HAVE IDEAS FOR FIGHTING STRATEGIES AND/OR THE CARDS, WRITE ME.



I'M STILL GETTING CHALLENGES FROM PEOPLE WHO WANNA HAVE A SHOWDOWN WITH THAT AS THE PRIZE!

I KNOW FROM FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE HOW HARD IT CAN GET! YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE WHEN WORD GOT OUT THAT I FOUND THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION."

Angel of Destruction

Calls for destruction

INCIDENTALLY, I HAD TO BUY 150 BOXES BEFORE I RAN INTO THAT ONE!

NOW DON'T BE FOOLED BY SWEET WORDS OR COWED BY THREATS, MANAMI!

THE REASON YOU CAN'T GET THIS KINDA CARD ON EBAY IS BECAUSE IT'S *PRICELESS!*

WHAT DID I...

THAT CLERK REALLY DID SEEM ANXIOUS TO GET IT BACK..

Please, please, please!! I'll trade you for this!

SUPER-RARE CARD

"SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER" CARDS WERE *ONLY* PRINTED IN THE VERY FIRST EDITION OF THE SERIES. IN THEORY, IT SHOULD'VE BEEN SOLD AWAY LONG AGO. WHO KNOWS HOW IT GOT MIXED UP WITH THAT ELF STUFF?!

LET'S CALL IT THE RAREST OF THE RARE!

BASICALLY, THE *HOLY GRAIL* OF THIS GAME.

かいっ

GRAB

MANAMI!

FROM NOW ON, PEOPLE ARE GONNA COME AFTER YOU!

HAH?!

NOT A BIT!

OH, COME ON. THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF *DRAMATIZING* IN THERE, RIGHT, CUZ?

BE PREPARED FOR LETTERS, PHONE CALLS AND GETTING STOPPED ON THE STREET! THAT'S HOW FAR PLAYERS WILL GO TO SEARCH FOR "SAHGAN!"

Yeah, it was "Sahgan the Mighty Sorcerer."

I'M SURE THE CLERK'S BLABBED TO EVERY CUSTOMER HE HAD THE SECOND WE WALKED OUT THE STORE!

MINAMI-SAN! PLEASE!
I - B
I CAN TOP THAT! HOW ABOUT THESE SUPER-RARE CARDS? THE "RED SWORD," THE "GOLDEN SERAPHIM" AND THE "GOLD GOLEM" AND...
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE SUPER-RARE CARDS! CHECK IT OUT! THE "GOBLIN PRINCESS", THE "SILVER SHARK" AND THE "EVIL EYE," ALL FOR YOUR "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER"!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THOSE EVEN ARE!
WAIT!
SAA!
THOSE AREN'T EVEN FOR THE GAME!
It kills me to see these go, but...
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWISTED MY ARM! I'LL TRADE YOU FOR MY "LEGENDARY IDOL YUKO" AND "SPACE BATTLESHIP COSMOS" METAL CARDS...

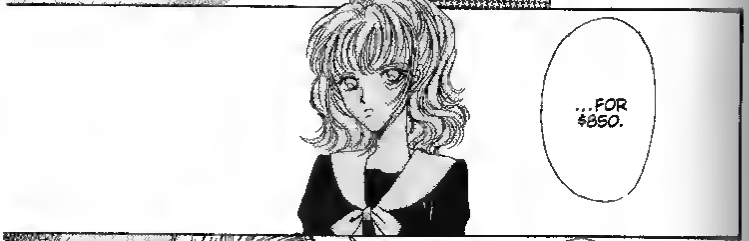
THE "SORCERER SERIES".
ALL-RIGHT, I WON'T TELL YOU.
A BEGINNER'S SET? DON'T TELL ME A NEOPHYTE ACQUIRED "SAHGAN?!"
"SAH-GAN THE MIGHTY SOR-CER-ER?"
...GET MYSELF INTO HERE?!
ALL THAT POWER GONE TO WASTE.
FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, IT WAS PART OF A BEGINNER'S SET, SOLD AT RETAIL PRICE AT A CARD SHOP!
ARE YOU POSITIVE? THE CARD IS SO RARE IT'S ALMOST AN URBAN LEGEND.
I WANT "SAHGAN." I NEED HIM.
AND THEN I'LL HAVE THEM ALL...

GRAB
KYAAA...
...WHO...?
MANAMI MINAMI, I PRESUME?
WHERE HAVE I SEEN HIM BEFORE...?

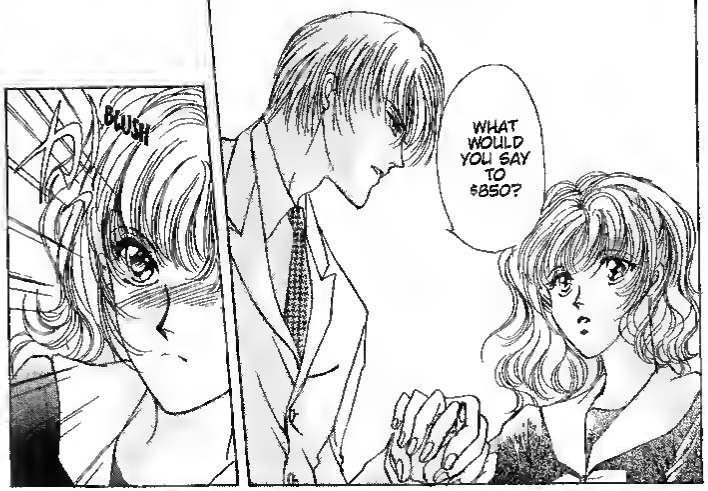
TAMOTSU!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, I'LL THROW DOWN WITH YOU.
LEAVE THESE DWEEBS TO ME
I CAN'T!
I don't really like the rules yet!
MANAMI MINAMI! I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL! WINNER TAKES "SAHGAN!"
Of course, I mean a CHAOS duel!

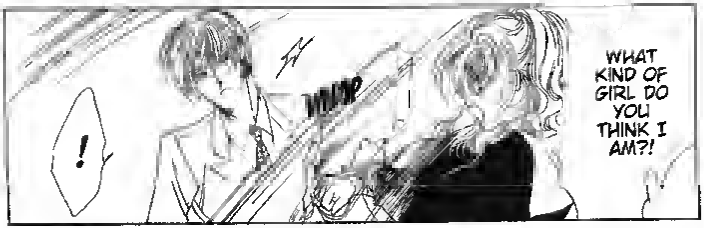
UWAAA! UWAAA!
CLAK CLAK CLAK CLAK
THIS IS LIKE A BAD DREAM!
O-OKAY
LOCK ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS WHEN YOU GET HOME!
GULP
KAGIMA'S RANKED THIRD IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY!

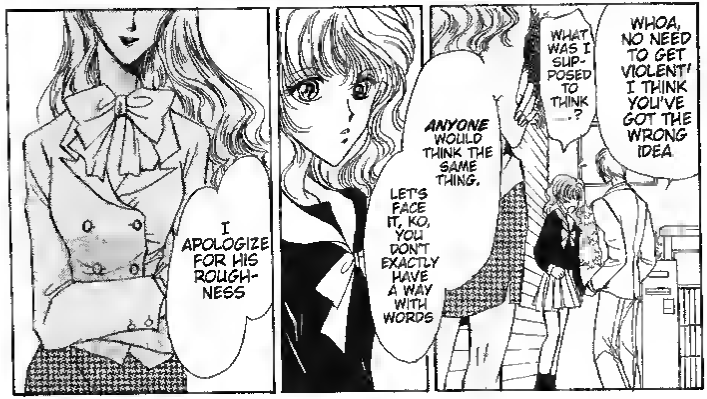
HELLO.
I'M MIYAKO KIYOGUCHI AND THIS IS KO TOJO. WE BOTH GO TO HANYU HIGH.
WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A HUGE FAVOR.
OH, YOU'RE WAY AHEAD OF ME. INDEED, WE WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE THE CARD FROM YOU...
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER?"


...FOR ¥850.

EH?!
... WAY.
OR, IF THAT AMOUNT SEEMS INADEQUATE, WE ARE WILLING TO PAY MORE... AS MUCH AS IT TAKES, ACTUALLY.

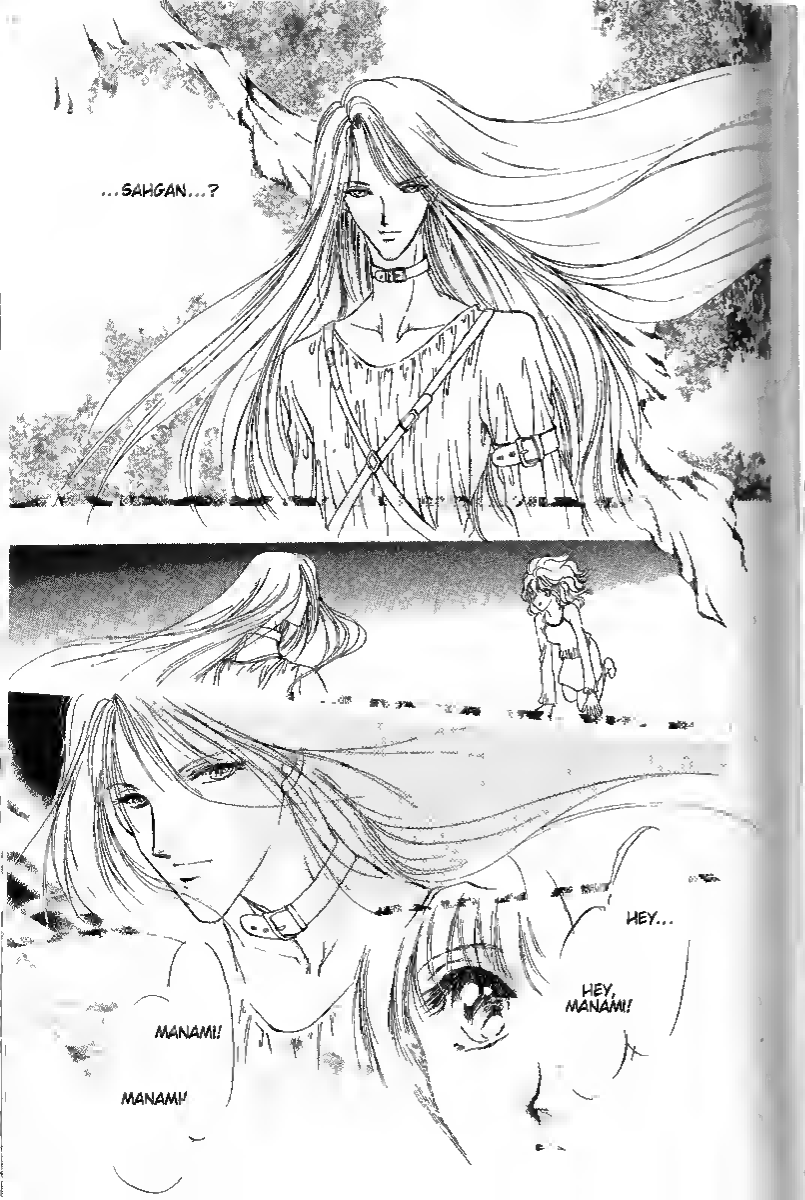

BUSH
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ¥850?


!
WHAT KIND OF GIRL DO YOU THINK I AM?!


I APOLOGIZE FOR HIS ROUGHNESS
LET'S FACE IT, KO, YOU DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS
ANYONE WOULD THINK THE SAME THING.
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO THINK...?
WHOA, NO NEED TO GET VIOLENT! I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA

THAT WAS HER COURTEOUS WAY OF TELLING US TO BUZZ OFF, MIYAKO.
.....
I SEE. SHE'S INTO MANNERS, EH?
JUST LIKE HER DARN COUSIN.
KO! WHAT DO YOU FIND SO AMUSING?
CHUCKLE
FWUMP
ALL THIS COMMOTION...
...OVER ONE CARD
sigh..
...I'M BEAT.

I'LL NEVER GIVE IT AWAY FOR MONEY!
I SAID NO WAY!
EX-CUSE ME!
SPIN
FWISH!
I GOT THE CARD BY PURE CHANCE ...
...BUT I'M SURE I CAN TAKE BETTER CARE OF IT THAN YOU!
CHUCKLE
WHO GOES UP TO A STRANGER AND THROWS DOLLAR SIGNS IN THEIR FACE?
FOR PEOPLE DRESSED AS NICELY AS YOU TWO, YOU'RE IN-CREDI-BLY RUDE!

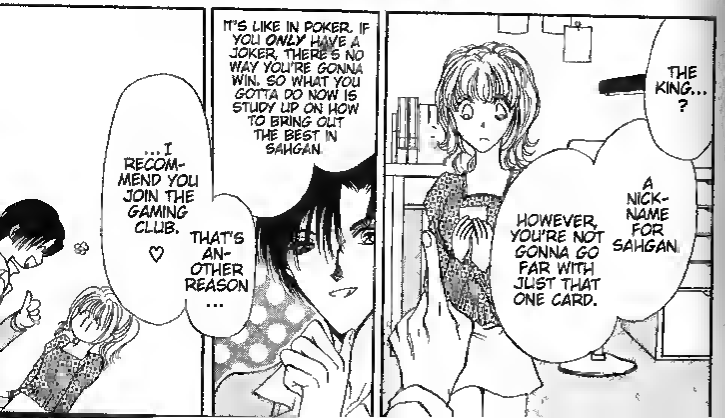

...SAHGAN...?
MANAMI!
MANAMI!
HEY...
HEY, MANAMI!

"SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER"...
HONESTLY, MY HAVING A GREAT CARD LIKE THIS...
...IS LIKE CASTING PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
ALL THE SAME, I DON'T WANT TO GIVE IT TO ANY OF THEM.
I THINK I'LL HOLD ON TO IT...
...HUH?

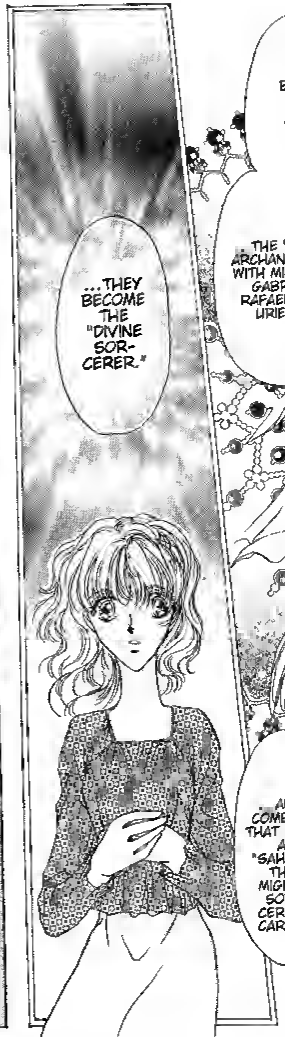
SATAN
GOD
I'm the devil?
IF YOU PLAY THE ANGELIC ARMY, YOU'RE "GOD." PLAY THE DEMONIC ARMY AND YOU'RE "SATAN."
THE PLAYERS CHOOSE WHETHER TO GO WITH THE ANGELIC ARMY OR THE DEMONIC ARMY.
THE SHOWDOWNS RESEMBLE POKER, WITH THE CARDS YOU PULL FROM YOUR PILE SQUARING OFF AGAINST YOUR OPPONENT'S HAND.
So it's good to have three demons in your hand or two angels like that?
HAVING AN UNUSUAL CHARACTER CARD IN YOUR HAND STRENGTHENS IT, NO MATTER WHAT THE OTHER CARDS ARE.
OH!
I THINK I GET IT! SO THAT'S WHY EVERYONE IS AFTER "SAHGAN!"
EXACTLY. "SAHGAN" IS ESPECIALLY RARE AND CAN BE PART OF ALL KINDS OF COMBOS, BUT THEY'RE ALMOST CONSIDERED HYPOTHETICAL SINCE THE REAL DEAL HAS BEEN A PERPETUAL NO-SHOW 'TIL NOW.
ANOTHER COOL THING ABOUT "SORCERERS" IS THEY CAN BE USED WHETHER YOU'RE PLAYING ANGELS OR DEMONS

COME ON, GET UP!
you're still talking in your sleep!
SAHGAN'S FACE JUST TURNED INTO SOMEONE I'VE SEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH OF!
SAH...
BLINK
MANAMI, WAKE UP!
BLINK
SORRY... BUT I APPRECIATE IT!
I ENDED UP PLAYING AGAINST ABOUT TEN PEOPLE BECAUSE OF YOU!
UH-UH.
DO YOU KNOW HOW THE GAME PLAY OF CHAOS WORKS?
OKAY, I'LL EX-PLAIN IT.
ALL RIGHT. WELL, THERE ARE ANGEL CARDS AND DEMON CARDS.
OH!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S AN ULTRA-ULTRA-RARE CARD THAT WAS ONLY PRODUCED FOR THE VERY FIRST PRINTING OF THE CARDS.
...WHAT KIND OF CARD IS THIS "SAHGAN" ANYWAY, TAMOTSU?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! HOW IS IT ESPECIALLY STRONG?

THAT WASN'T JUST A CARD YOU LUCKED INTO...
...BUT THE KEY TO HAVING THE STRONGEST HAND IN THE GAME.
IN FACT, DEPENDING ON LUCK OF THE GAME AND THE WAY YOU PLAY IT...
...THERE'S NO LIMIT TO HOW STRONG YOU CAN BE
YOU COULD EVEN BECOME THE KING OF CARDS.


IT'S LIKE IN POKER. IF YOU ONLY HAVE A JOKER, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE GONNA WIN. SO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO NOW IS STUDY UP ON HOW TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN SAHGAN.
...I RECOMMEND YOU JOIN THE GAMING CLUB. ♡
THAT'S ANOTHER REASON...
THE KING...?
A NICKNAME FOR SAHGAN.
HOWEVER, YOU'RE NOT GONNA GO FAR WITH JUST THAT ONE CARD.

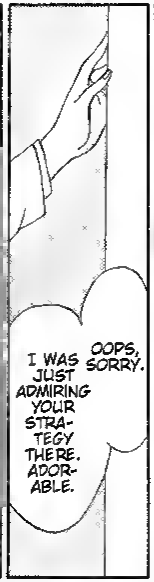
SO YOU SEE, MANAMI?


...THEY BECOME THE "DIVINE SORCERER."

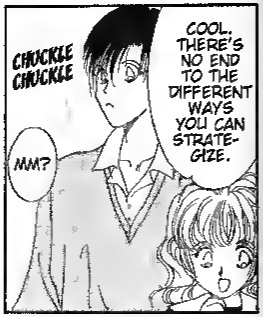
CURRENTLY, THE STRONGEST HANDS YOU CAN HAVE ARE THE "FOUR DEMON LORDS"...
...LILIX, MAMMON, BAIMON AND EGYLIN... AND FOR THE OTHER SIDE...
THE "FOUR ARCHANGELS," WITH MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAFAEL AND URIEL...
.. THE "TWIN ANGELS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION"
AND FINALLY IF YOU HAVE THE "FOUR GREAT SORCERERS," WHITE, BLUE, RED AND BLACK.
AND COMBINE THAT WITH A "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER" CARD...

AT THIS LEVEL OF THE GAME, IT'D BE THIS PAIR OF SERAPHIM.
OH.
IF YOU USED THIS MAGIC CARD ...
...TO TURN ANOTHER CARD INTO A SERAPHIM...
LOOK, YOU'VE GOT GOOD CARDS IN YOUR HAND, SO USE 'EM!
EH?! WHICH ONES?!
*GAMING CLUB MEMBERS

AH!
GREETINGS, GAMERS OF OHARA HIGH.

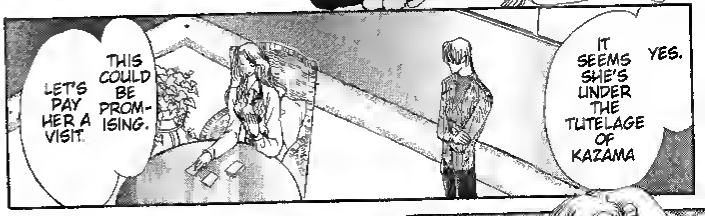

OOPS, SORRY.
I WAS JUST ADMIRING YOUR STRATEGY THERE. ADORABLE.

YOU HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS WHEN USING THE MAGIC, DRAGON AND WEAPON CARDS.
whisper
AH! I GET THREE OF A KIND!


CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
MM?
COOL, THERE'S NO END TO THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN STRATEGIZE.

DO I HAVE IT IN ME TO BECOME STRONG...?
THAT GIRL JOINED THE GAMING CLUB?

CHUCKLE
I SEE...
...THE KING OF CARDS...
I'll be like your coach!
I'LL DO IT! PLEASE HELP ME!


LET'S PAY HER A VISIT.
THIS COULD BE PROMISING.
YES.
IT SEEMS SHE'S UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF KAZAMA

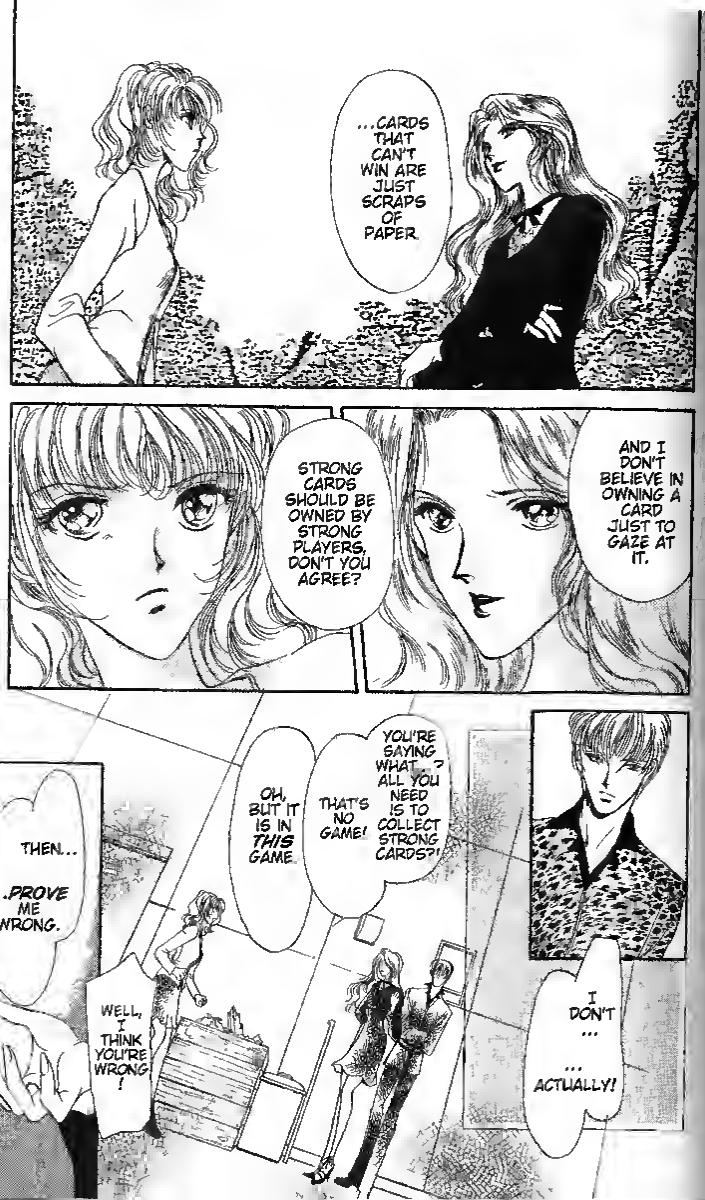
AH!
NO, NO, NO!
THIS TIME ON OUR BEST BEHAVIOR.

I SUPPOSE IF YOU HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN HER, SHE'S BETTER OFF WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES.
IT'S A SHAME, REALLY. I WANTED TO TEST MY METTLE AGAINST "SAHGAN." OH, WELL.
SHUNK
BUT WE'VE EACH GOT ONLY FIVE MEMBERS IN OUR CLUB. ONE OF OURS HAS TO SIT OUT BECAUSE ONE OF YOURS WON'T PLAY?
WE'LL DO IT, BUT OUR NEWEST MEMBER IS A BEGINNER, SO SHE'LL JUST HAVE TO BE A SPECTATOR.
ALL THAT POWER AND HE HAS TO SIT IN AN UNUSED DECK.
THOUGH I DO FEEL SORRY FOR "SAHGAN."
chuckle chuckle
.....
...I'LL PLAY!
GULP
WONDERFUL! YOU AND I WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER THAT DAY!!
M-MANAMI, WAIT A MINUTE!
WHUMP
IF THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE IN..
...THEN SO AM I!

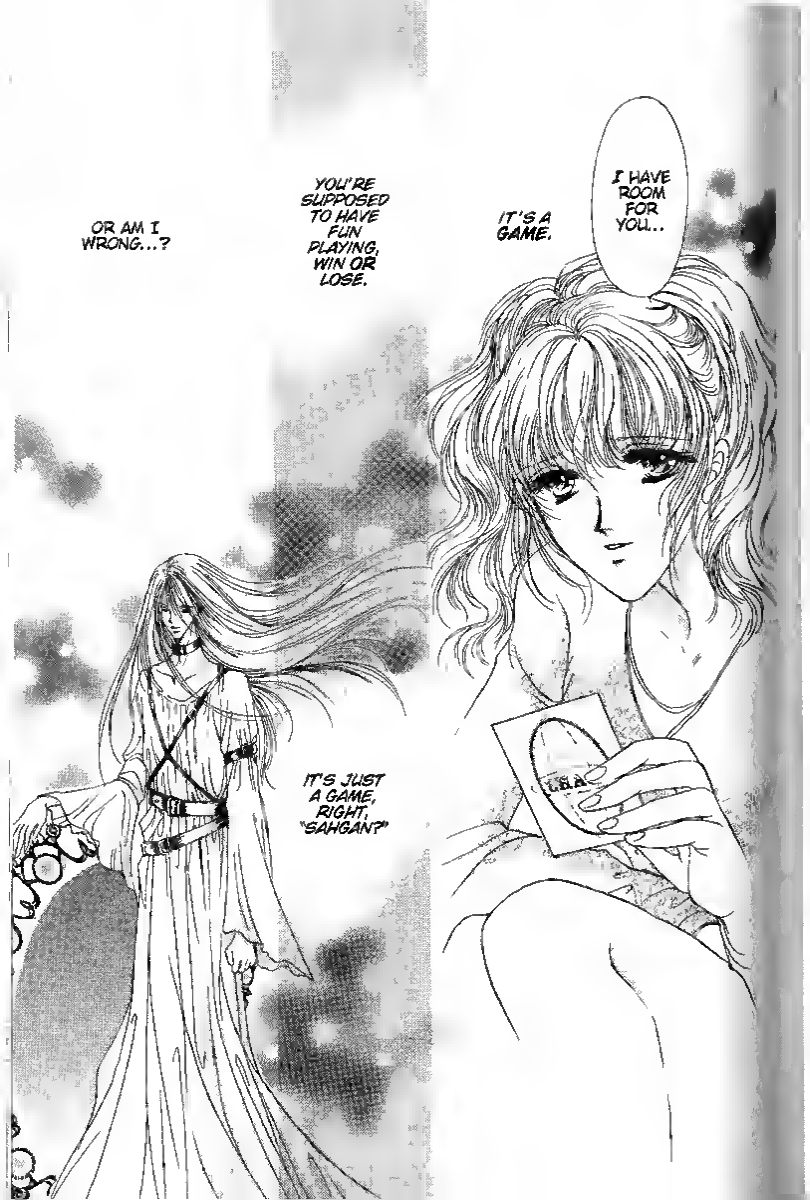
HUH. TOJO.
RATTLE
WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR? REVENGE AFTER I SCHOOLED YOU AT THE NATIONALS?
A MATCH?
WRONG! WE STOPPED BY TO FORMALLY PROPOSE A MATCH.
.....
SO, DO YOU ACCEPT?
AFTER ALL, HANYU HIGH AND OHARA HIGH ARE SISTER SCHOOLS.
YES. A FRIENDLY MATCH BETWEEN OUR SCHOOL'S GAMING CLUB AND YOURS.
OF COURSE, WE'D BE PLAYING CHAOS.

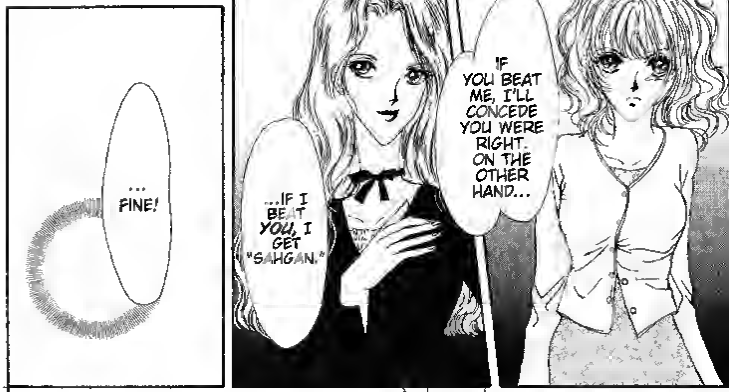
...GIVE ME A CRASH COURSE.
FIRST OF ALL..
YOU HAVE TO BEEF UP YOUR FIGHTING POWER!
GO BACK TO THE STORE AND BUY SOME MORE CARDS!
THIS GAME TAKES MORE MONEY THAN I THOUGHT!
GARBAGE! ALL GARBAGE!
HUH? I KNOW THAT VOICE..
Don't tell me it's them again
YEP, JUST MY LUCK.
NOPE, NO SUPER-RARES HERE, MIYAKO.
WHAT A WASTE OF MONEY! I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT!
THIS TRASH CAN GO WHERE IT BELONGS.
RUFFLE RUFFLE

LET'S MAKE IT AT HANYU ...
...THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, AFTER SCHOOL.
SEE YOU THEN.
KAGIMA, IT'S YOU AGAINST ME.
SEE? I KNEW YOU HELD A GRUDGE FOR THAT LAST TIME
WOMAN VERSUS WOMAN. WHAT COULD BE MORE NATURAL?
M-MANAMI! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID?!
SPIN SPIN
I COULDN'T HELP IT! AFTER EVERYTHING SHE SAID...
OF COURSE, IT WAS ALL TRUE, BUT...
PY!, THAT GIRL'S THE PRESIDENT OF HANYU'S GAMING CLUB! IF YOU PLAY AGAINST HER, YOU COULD VERY WELL LOSE "SAHGAN!"
EVEN SO...
SQUEAK
...I WANNA PLAY!
SO, PLEASE, TAMOTSU ...

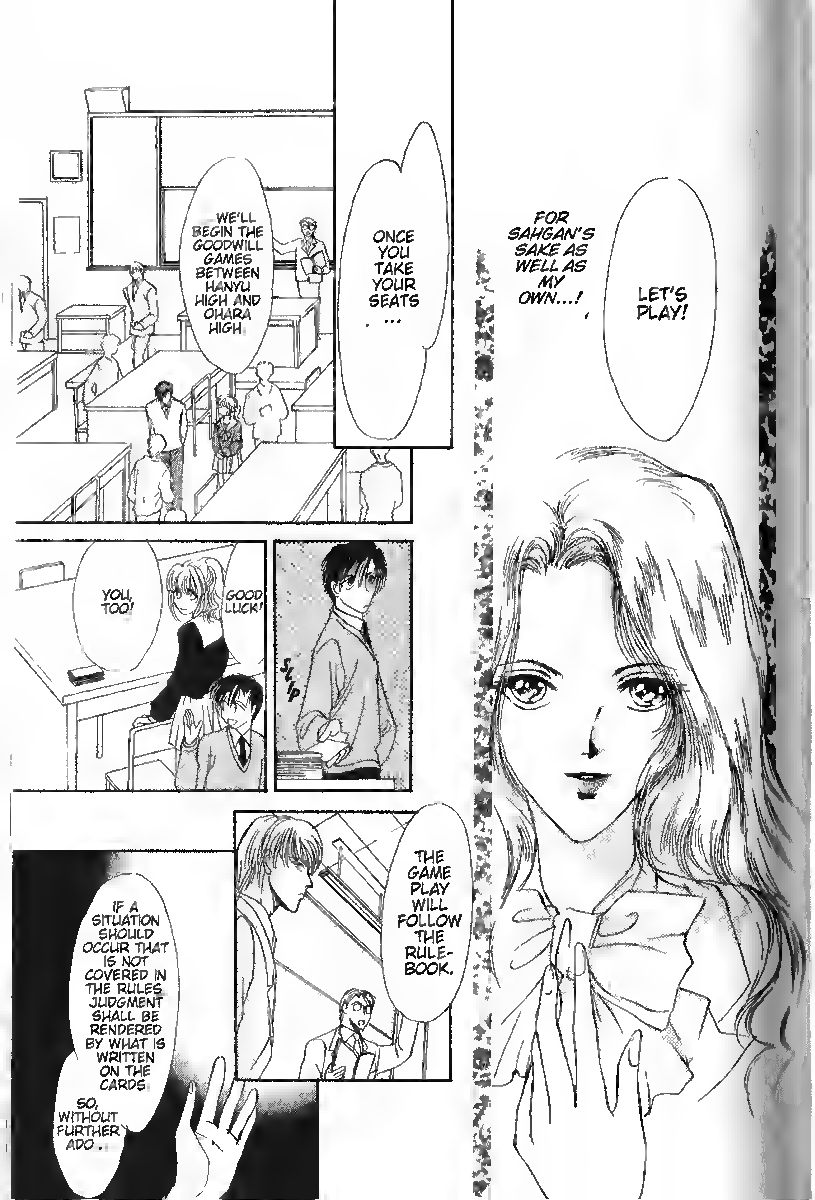

...CARDS THAT CAN'T WIN ARE JUST SCRAPS OF PAPER.
STRONG CARDS SHOULD BE OWNED BY STRONG PLAYERS, DON'T YOU AGREE?
AND I DON'T BELIEVE IN OWNING A CARD JUST TO GAZE AT IT.
THEN..
...PROVE ME WRONG.
WELL, I THINK YOU'RE WRONG!
OH, BUT IT IS IN THIS GAME.
THAT'S NO GAME!
YOU'RE SAYING WHAT..? ALL YOU NEED IS TO COLLECT STRONG CARDS?!
I DON'T ... ... ACTUALLY!

WHY DID YOU JUST THROW THESE CARDS AWAY?!
YOU..
WHY...?
LET'S GO, KO...
WAIT!
WHAT'S THE HURT IN KEEPING CARDS..
SO YOU TOSS THEM..?
BECAUSE I HAVE NO NEED OF THEM. THEY'RE JUST DUPLICATES OF EVERYTHING I ALREADY HAVE
SNICKER SNICKER
I MAY BE A BEGINNER, BUT..
THAT'S CUTE! OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...
BUT YOU SEE, MANAMI-SAN...
I HATE TO SEE YOU TREAT THE CARDS THAT WAY!
...THAT ARE DUPLICATES OR WEAK?
MAYBE THEY'RE OF NO VALUE TO YOU..
..BUT I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.


I HAVE ROOM FOR YOU...
IT'S A GAME.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE FUN PLAYING, WIN OR LOSE.
OR AM I WRONG...?
IT'S JUST A GAME, RIGHT, "SAHGAN?"

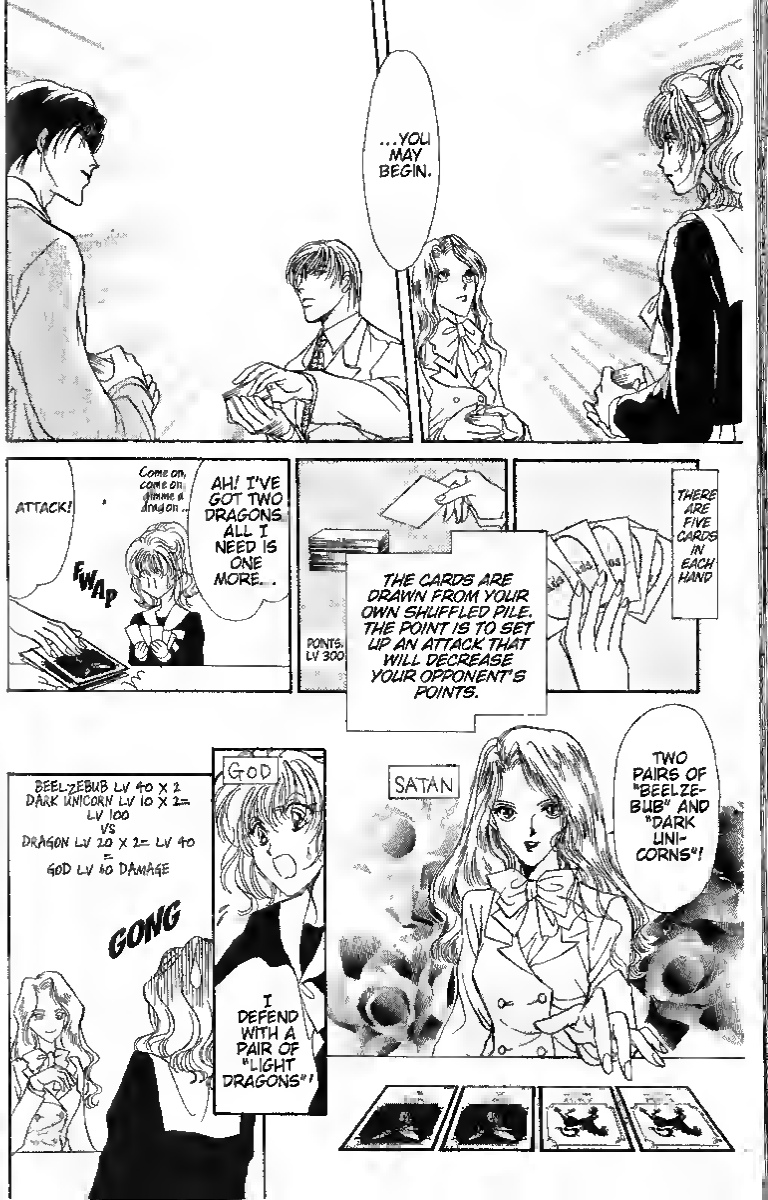

...FINE!
...IF I BEAT YOU, I GET "SAHGAN."
"IF YOU BEAT ME, I'LL CONCEDE YOU WERE RIGHT. ON THE OTHER HAND...

HOW CAN THIS BE ANY FUN FOR THEM?
LOOK AT ALL THESE CARDS SHE DUMPED!
...HOW CAN THAT BE FUN?
Hmph.
'TIL THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW THEN. I, FOR ONE, CAN'T WAIT..
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
...BUT IF I WERE YOU, I'D PRACTICE MY BUNS OFF.


WE'LL BEGIN THE GOODWILL GAMES BETWEEN HANYU HIGH AND OHARA HIGH.
ONCE YOU TAKE YOUR SEATS . . . .
YOU, TOO!
GOOD LUCK!
SLIP
IF A SITUATION SHOULD OCCUR THAT IS NOT COVERED IN THE RULES, JUDGMENT SHALL BE RENDERED BY WHAT IS WRITTEN ON THE CARDS.
SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO . .
THE GAME PLAY WILL FOLLOW THE RULE-BOOK.
FOR SAHGAN'S SAKE AS WELL AS MY OWN . . . !
LET'S PLAY!

ALL I KNOW IS I DON'T WANT TO LOSE AGAINST THEM.
HANYU HIG
HEY, MANAMI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
MAYBE . . I THINK I REMEMBER ALL OF THE CARDS' PROPERTIES, ANYWAY
DID YOU GET ENOUGH SLEEP LAST NIGHT?
UH-HUH
AND I SAW SAHGAN IN MY DREAM AGAIN . .
TA-MO-TSU . .
MM?
I'M GOING TO WIN TODAY . .
. . BE-CAUSE I CAN'T LOSE!
WEL-COME!

SH-SHE IS GOOD!
FWAP
ATTACK!
THREE "GODDESS OF SORCERY HECATES!"
FWAP
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ATTACK! A PAIR OF "SUCCUBI" WITH A "NIGHTMARE" ATTACHED!
IF THIS KEEPS UP, I'LL LOSE IN NO TIME!
HOW CAN I...?
FLINCH
TAMOTSU LOST?!
THEY'RE DONE?! ALREADY?!

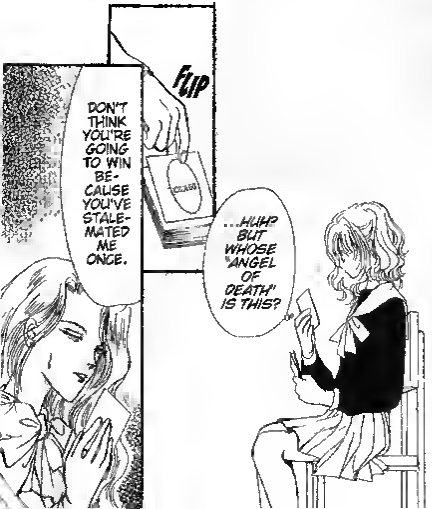

...YOU MAY BEGIN.
ATTACK!
Come on, come on, gimme a dragon...
FWAP
AH! I'VE GOT TWO DRAGONS. ALL I NEED IS ONE MORE...
POINTS: LV 300
THE CARDS ARE DRAWN FROM YOUR OWN SHUFFLED PILE. THE POINT IS TO SET UP AN ATTACK THAT WILL DECREASE YOUR OPPONENT'S POINTS.
THERE ARE FIVE CARDS IN EACH HAND
BEEL-ZEBUB LV 40 X 2
DARK UNICORN LV 10 X 2=
LV 100
VS
DRAGON LV 20 X 2= LV 40
=
GOD LV 40 DAMAGE
GONG
GOD
I DEFEND WITH A PAIR OF "LIGHT DRAGONS"!
SATAN
TWO PAIRS OF "BEELZEBUB" AND "DARK UNICORNS"!

FWMP
LILIX, MAMMON, BAIMON AND EGYUN!
THE "FOUR DEMON LORDS"!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!! THE "FOUR DEMON LORDS"?!
That combo's worth 200 points!
RE-MEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU? IF THE CARDS DON'T HELP YOU WIN, THEY'RE JUST SCRAPS OF PAPER.
NOW THESE ARE CARDS!
ANOTHER ATTACK...!!

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GET TO SEE YOUR "ANGEL OF DEATH" COME INTO PLAY.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY DECENT CARDS FROM YOU. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUC-TION," YOUR PRIDE AND JOY?
KA-ZA-MA ...
SHOOT! THAT WAS A MASSACRE!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THESE TWO MUST BE REALLY TOUGH... IF THEY CAN EVEN DEFEAT TAMOTSU-CHAN..!
Huh? You too?
Oh, well... I THINK I'LL CHECK OUT THE OTHER GAMES.
FWMP
.....

EH?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE CARDS NOW IS THE TIME TO DO IT.
HOW MANY WILL YOU TAKE? ONE? TWO?
THUMP
THUMP
..IT'S OVER FOR ME
FLIP
IF I TAKE THE FULL BRUNT OF THIS ATTACK, IT'LL WIPE OUT ALL MY POINTS...!

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM OFF IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD.
DIS-TRAC-TED BY YOUR COUSIN'S LOSS, MAYBE?
ATTACK!
FWMP
GASP



THANK YOU, COUSIN!

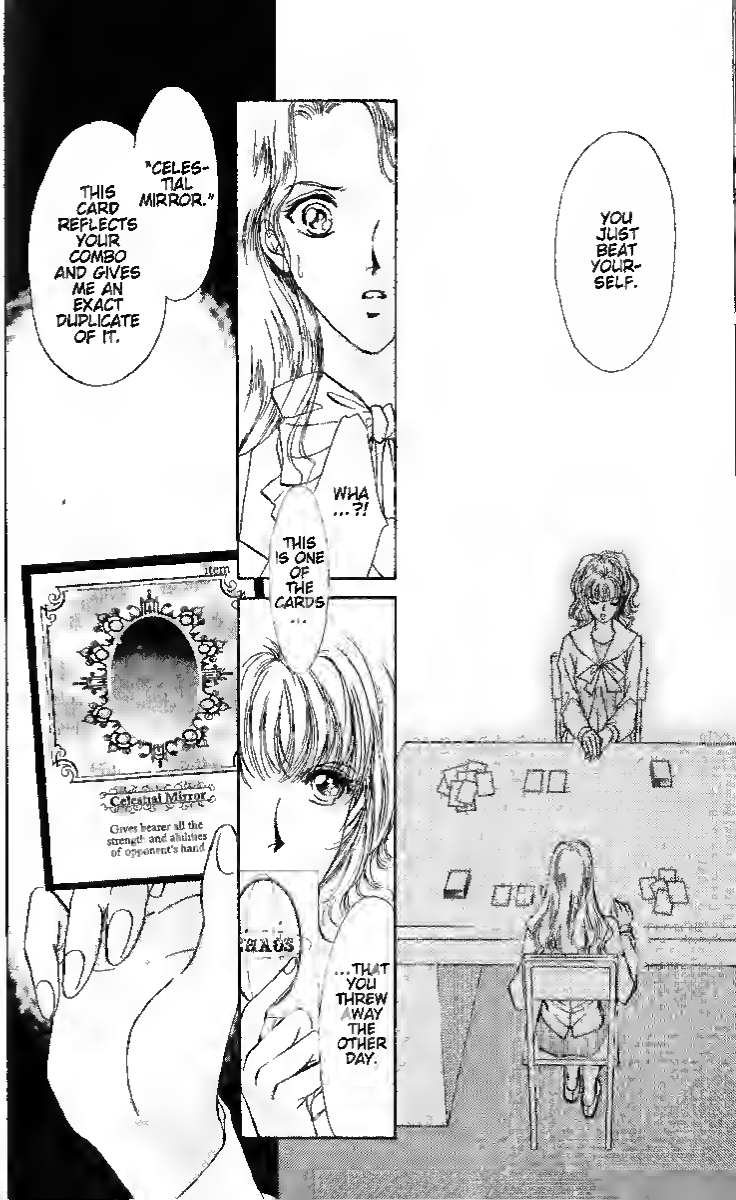
HE MUST'VE PUT HIS BEST CARDS INTO MY PILE...

...BUT BECAUSE OF THAT LOST HIS OWN MATCH.

MIYAKO-SAN.
SAGO
IF THE CARD I'M THINKING OF...
...HAPPENS TO COME UP NEXT...
GO AHEAD! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE!
IT'S HOPELESS!
EVEN IF YOU PULL "SAHGAN," THAT COMBINED WITH A MEDIOCRE HAND WON'T BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE ONSLAUGHT OF MY "FOUR GREAT SORCERERS!"
THEN, "SAHGAN" WILL BE MINE!!

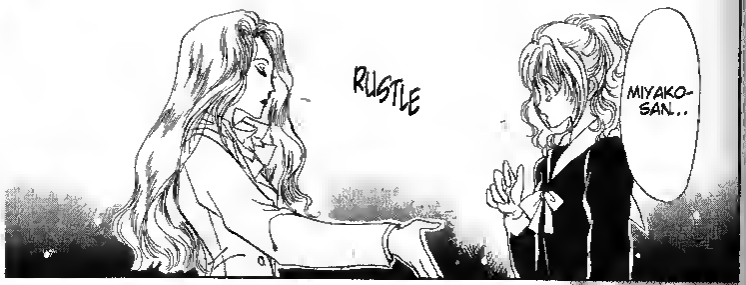
FWAP
ATTACK!
WHITE, BLUE, RED, BLACK.. THE "FOUR GREAT SORCERERS!"
!!
OOOH...
I DIDN'T PUT ANYTHING IN HER DECK THAT CAN COUNTER THAT...
OY-OY-OY.
...IF...
SQUEENE...
Gabriel
Protects peace on Earth

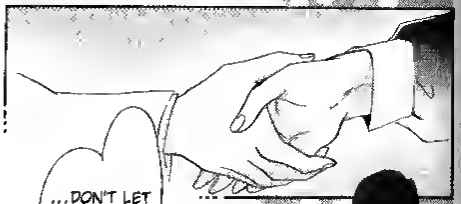
OH MY GOD ...
...TO YOUR "FOUR GREAT SORCERERS"...
SO IF I ADD MY "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER"...
ATTACK!
"DIVINE SORCERER!"


YOU JUST BEAT YOURSELF.
WHA ...?!
"CELESTIAL MIRROR."
THIS CARD REFLECTS YOUR COMBO AND GIVES ME AN EXACT DUPLICATE OF IT.
THIS IS ONE OF THE CARDS ...
...THAT YOU THREW AWAY THE OTHER DAY.
Item
Celestial Mirror
Gives bearer all the strength and abilities of opponent's hand

Awesome! That was the first time I've ever seen anything like it!!
TALK
MIYAKO...
IN LAST NIGHT'S DREAM, SAHGAN WAS HOLDING THIS MIRROR...!
I-IS THAT EVEN ALLOWED?!
I DON'T KNOW! IT'S NOT COVERED IN THE RULE-BOOK...
DUMMY! OF COURSE IT'S AL-LOWED! MANAMI, YOU ROCK!!
HOW'D YOU COME UP WITH A MOVE LIKE THAT?!
IN MY DREAM
HAH?

WHOOAAA

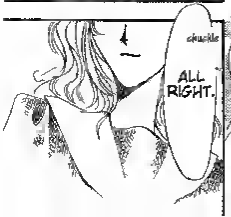

RUSTLE
MIYAKO-SAN..


!
...

FWIP
TO-JO!

...DON'T LET THIS ONE WIN GO TO YOUR HEAD. WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
UNTIL THEN, YOU CAN KEEP THE "KING OF CARDS."

SWAP


chuckle
ALL RIGHT.

MIYA-KO...
LIM...
hmph
WERE YOU TRYING TO SEND ME A MESSAGE? THAT I WAS IN THE WRONG?
RATTLE

ULP
...YOU GAVE THAT GIRL SOME OF YOUR CARDS, DIDN'T YOU, KO?
GLARE

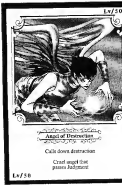
IT APPEARS THAT SHE'S WON, BUT WITH A MOVE THAT'S NOT IN THE RULES, SO IF YOU'D LIKE TO PROTEST...
IN A SITUATION THAT'S NOT MENTIONED IN THE RULES, YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW WHAT'S WRITTEN ON THE CARDS.

BACK WHEN I STARTED, THAT'S WHAT I PLEDGED...
...TO THE GOD OF CARDS.

KING OF CARDS
おうさま
カードの王様2

AND SO, THE "KING OF CARDS" ..
BUT NEXT TIME, LET'S HAVE FUN PLAYING.
..RE-MAINED WITH ME.
BY THE WAY
..NEXT TIME, LET ME BORROW SAHGAN WHEN I PLAY!
I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE A FEELING HE DOESN'T LIKE GUYS
HMM..
IS THAT WHAT HE TOLD YOU?!
I STILL MEET SAHGAN IN MY DREAMS SOME-TIMES.
I HAVEN'T HAD THAT MUCH FUN IN A LONG TIME.
THE KING OF CARDS: THE END

WOW! SO THE "PRINCESS OF HANYU" FINALLY GOT OWNED.
YEAH, BY SOME NEWBIE, I HEARD.
HUH. NO WAY THAT WAS JUST BY LUCK OF THE DRAW.
I WANNA SEE THE REAL DEAL IN ACTION
NO, 'CAUSE I WANT WHAT SHE'S GOT.
"SAHGAN."
"CHAOS"...
...IS A POPULAR TRADING CARD GAME RIGHT NOW.
FLUTTER
WAAA!
MANAMI MANAMI


Lv/50
Angel of Destruction
Calls down destruction
Cruel angel that passes Judgment
Lv/50

I WANT TO HAVE A SHOWDOWN WITH YOU, WINNER TAKE SAHGAN.
Final Battle
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WANT "SAHGAN"...
...AND THEY'RE FLOODING MY LOCKER WITH CHALLENGES.
AS LONG AS...
...YOU DON'T ACCEPT ANY OF THESE INVITES...!

I KNOOOW!
DON'T FORGET, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN PLAYING FOR A MONTH NOW!
HOT BLOODED AS YOU ARE, YOU WORRY ME...
are you sure?
I KNOW, TAMOTSU.

AH! HERE WE ARE.
THIS IS MY COUSIN, TAMOTSU BECAUSE OF HIM, I STARTED GETTING INTO "CHAOS" RECENTLY. I HAD MY FIRST REAL MATCH...
AL-THOUGH... ...I'VE STILL GOTTA GIVE YOU PROPS FOR WINNING YOUR FIRST MATCH.
YEP!

SAH-GAN?
YOU COULD SAY THAT... ...BUT THE LOVE IS FOR "SAHGAN," NOT ME!
WOW! ARE THOSE ALL LOVE LETTERS, MANAMI?!

THIS!
FOR SOME REASON, THAT CARD WAS INCLUDED IN THE BEGINNER'S SET THAT I BOUGHT.
"SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER." A CHAOS CARD SO RARE, IT'S KNOWN AS A "PHANTOM."

YOUR DREAM?
UH-HUH.
HOW IS "SAHGAN," BY THE WAY?
OH, GOOD! HE WAS IN MY DREAM AGAIN LAST NIGHT.
HE DOESN'T REALLY SAY MUCH, BUT WE DO MEET IN MY DREAMS SOMETIMES.
I'm gonna buy one, too!
KO, WHY DO I SUDDENLY GET THE FEELING THAT SHE JUST BEAT ME AGAIN?
WHENEVER SAHGAN DOES SHOW UP IN MY DREAMS...
...HE ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE HE WANTS TO TELL ME SOMETHING.
ALL RIGHT! LET'S TEST MY LUCK!!
RIP
CHAOS
NOW IN STOCK
NEW BOOSTER PACKS
OH.
...WITH THEM.
AH.
TAMOTSU, WHAT ARE "BOOSTERS?"
LIKE SUPPLEMENTAL C, RDS, 10 TO A PACK. SEE, YOU CAN REALLY "BOOST" THE POWER OF YOUR DECK WITH 'EM.
HMPH.
YOU GUYS FOUND THIS PLACE, TOO? SHOULD'VE EXPECTED TO RUN INTO YOU, THE DAY THE NEW BOOSTER PACKS COME IN.
BOW
LIKEWISE.
Welcome!
SIGH. EVEN NOW, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE... ...THAT THIS GIRL BEAT ME.
I don't know if I'll ever live it down.
MIYAKO...

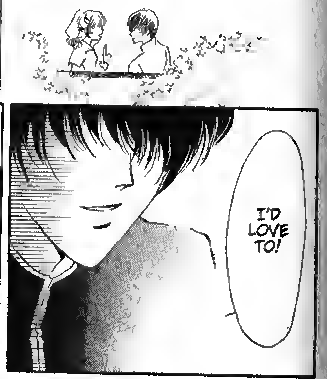
LUCK...
I WONDER IF I DID USE UP MY ALLOTMENT WITH THIS CARD...
...BUT EVEN IF SHE'S NOT LUCKY ...
THEY DON'T HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR ME! I DON'T HAVE LUCK OR SKILL!
WHY DID IT COME TO ME?
"SAHGAN" ISN'T ONLY THE PROVERBIAL NEEDLE IN A HUGE HAYSTACK. DEPENDING HOW YOU USE THE CARD, ITS FIGHTING CAPABILITIES ARE LIMITLESS.
Oh, no!
AH!
FOO
PAT
IS THIS ...
...YOUR CARD?

YIKES! TALK ABOUT BOTTOM OF THE BARREL!
OH MY...
ALL THESE CARDS ARE WIMPY! COME ON! THREE "PIXIES?!" GIMME A BREAK!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS "SMALL PAIL" HAS NO EARTHLY USE.
I should know. I have one, too.
WELL, SHE DID GET A "STAFF OF HARMONY," WHICH A SORCERER CAN USE.
OOH, YOU MADE HER MAD.
HE WAS JUST MAKING AN OBSERVATION SHE ISN'T PARTICULARLY LUCKY
I, on the other hand, made out alright look at this.
MAYBE IT'S TRUE.
BAM
WELL, AT LEAST IT RAN OUT AFTER I GOT "SAHGAN!"
I'm going outside!
MUTTER
I SEE YOU'RE NOT ESPECIALLY LUCKY...

...I SEE...
IT DOES LOOK LIKE A LOT OF FUN, THOUGH...
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S HARD TO JUST GO UP TO HIGH SCHOOL GAMERS AND ASK IF I CAN JOIN IN
NO, NOT REALLY. I'M A SECOND-YEAR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT.
SO EVERYBODY AROUND ME IS PREPPING FOR HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS. IT'S LIKE NOBODY HAS TIME FOR GAMES!
IT FEELS REFRESHING, GETTING TO TALK TO SOMEONE LIKE THIS, WHO'S NOT LEAGUES AHEAD OF ME.

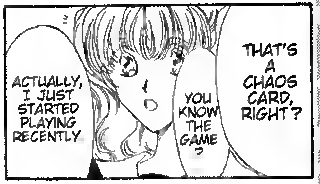
YEAH. IT'LL BE GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR TWO NEWBIES LIKE US
YOU ME IN PLAY AGAINST EACH OTHER?
WHY DON'T THE TWO OF US DO IT TOGETHER?
...I HAVE AN IDEA.
Besides, Tamatsu-Chan and those two are too strong to be my "sparring partners"...
IT'S HARD TO REALLY GET A GRASP OF THE GAME WITHOUT ACTUALLY PLAYING.
MAYBE THE TWO OF US CAN LEARN TOGETHER.
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU, BEING SEEN WITH A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT?

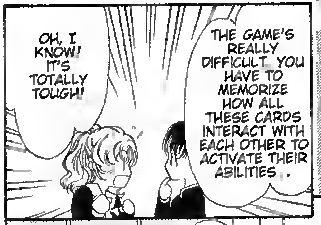
THEN I'LL SEE YOU HERE, THREE DAYS FROM NOW.
GREAT... HUH?
MANAMI!


I'D LOVE TO!

WHEW! THEN I'M GLAD I DIDN'T STEP ON IT!
THANK YOU AND YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!
UWAAA! THIS BOY'S SO CUTE! PROBABLY A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ONE BEFORE.
HERE YOU GO. IT MUST BE PRETTY IMPORTANT TO YOU


ACTUALLY, I JUST STARTED PLAYING RECENTLY
YOU KNOW THE GAME?
THAT'S A CHAOS CARD, RIGHT?


OH, I KNOW! IT'S TOTALLY TOUGH!
THE GAME'S REALLY DIFFICULT. YOU HAVE TO MEMORIZE HOW ALL THESE CARDS INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER TO ACTIVATE THEIR ABILITIES.

MUSIC & VIDEO
I'M ALWAYS CONFUSED BY HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO GET THE MAGIC OR ITEM CARDS TO WORK!
YEAH, ME, TOO! I CAN REMEMBER ONE PATTERN AND THAT'S IT!
YEAH, RIGHT? HEY, DO YOU EVER HAVE MATCHES?
MATCHES?

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN IN A FEW DAYS
MANAMI! DID YOU PROMISE TO HAVE A MATCH WITH HIM?!
W-WHY?! HE SAID HE'S JUST STARTED PLAYING HIMSELF...
DEFINE "JUST"
TRUE, RIKI HIKAMI STARTED PLAYING SIX MONTHS AGO AND HE IS A SECOND-YEAR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT...
...BIG BUT ...
I...
HE GOT HIS NICKNAME FROM PLAYING THE ANGEL CARDS OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
...HE MADE HIS DEBUT AT THE LAST TOURNAMENT AND ENDED UP BEING IN THE BEST EIGHT.
I WAS TRICKED ?!
DIDN'T I SPECIFICALLY TELL YOU NOT TO ACCEPT ANY CHALLENGES?
TODAY'S SNACK

FLUTTER
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?! THAT'S...
OH, I FORGOT. MY NAME'S RIKI HIKAMI...
...BUT MY CARD-PLAYING ACQUAINTANCES CALL ME THE "ANGEL."

AND THEN THERE ARE THE CARDS THAT ARE INTERCHANGEABLE. I MEAN, THEY CAN BE USED BY EITHER SIDE RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO. LIKE THE SORCERER OR MAGIC CREATURE CARDS.
YEAH, THE ONES THAT LET YOU USE YOUR OPPONENT'S CARDS ARE PRETTY SWEET, BUT THEIR POWER GETS CUT IN HALF.
S-SOUNDS LIKE SOME PRETTY STRONG CARDS THERE
IF YOU SAY SO
Here start with this.
IN THE MEANTIME, RESEARCH THE CARDS YOU ALREADY HAVE FOR POSSIBLY POTENT COMBOS.
NO, NO, THOSE GUYS ARE PUSHOVERS I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN TURN UP FOR YOU.
cause I've got plenty of those.
EH? UM... WOULD PIXIES COUNT?
WITH SAHGAN ON YOUR SIDE, YOU'D DO WELL TO TRY AND COLLECT THE LATTER.

I STILL DON'T GET TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS GAME. MAYBE IT REALLY ISN'T FOR ME..
FLIP
SIGH
...I REALLY STEPPED IN IT AGAIN.
umm...
"THE STAFF OF HARMONY" ...AH! HERE IT IS!!

WELL, WHAT SHOULD I DO, TAMOTSU?
IT WAS MY FAULT FOR FORGETTING TO TELL YOU THAT IN THE WORLD OF GAMING, AGE AND SEX DON'T MATTER.
THERE ARE GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THE GAME. NOT TO MENTION ADULTS!
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?! HE JUST LOOKS LIKE A SWEET, INNOCENT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BOY!

EH? BUT IN CHAOS, THE TWO PLAYERS CHOOSE TO BE IN CHARGE OF EITHER THE ANGELIC ARMY OR THE DEMONIC ARMY, RIGHT? SO WHAT IF HE DOESN'T GET A CHOICE AND HAS TO PLAY THE DEMONIC ARMY?
FIRST THING WE DO IS ANALYZE HIM I'VE NEVER PLAYED HIM MYSELF, BUT HIS REPUTATION PRECEDES HIM. GOT A THING FOR THE ANGEL CARDS.
REMEMBER, THERE ARE TONS OF DIFFERENT CARDS. FOR INSTANCE, HE COULD PLAY "HEAVENLY SWITCH," WHICH WOULD LET HIM CHANGE SIDES WITH HIS OPPONENT.
THEN THERE'S "FALLEN ANGEL'S REPENTANCE," "FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFER," "BELIAL," ETC...
...AND "FALLEN ANGEL'S INVITATION," WHERE YOU CAN TURN AN ANGEL INTO A "FALLEN ANGEL."
SO HIKAMI'S PROBABLY GOT HIS HANDS ON ALL THOSE CARDS.
Fallen Angel's Invitation
Turn angels into fallen angels

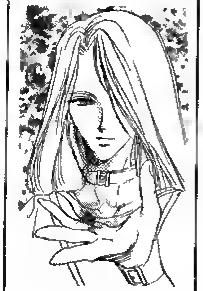
...I'M SURE SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD BE BETTER AT USING THAT CARD.
...MI
MANAMI
...LET ME OUT...

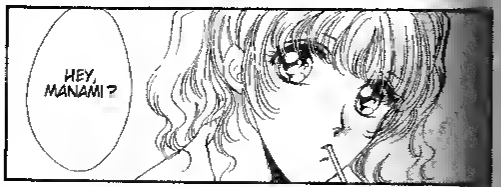
FWAP
I'M NOT GETTING ANYWHERE
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
"PIXIES LOVE SINGING AND DANCING.
AFTER DANCING, THEY CAN FORM A FAIRY RING."
"TAKES CHARGE OF HARMONY."
I still don't get it!
So what?
...THE REASON I WON LAST TIME WAS BECAUSE TAMOTSU-CHAN AND KO-SAN LENT ME THEIR CARDS...
...AND I LUCKED INTO GETTING TO USE MIYAKO-SAN'S CARDS.
WITHOUT THEM, I'M HOPELESSLY UNDERPOWERED.
AND IF I LOSE, I'M PROBABLY ALSO GOING TO LOSE "SAHGAN."
BUT MAYBE THAT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.
AFTER ALL...

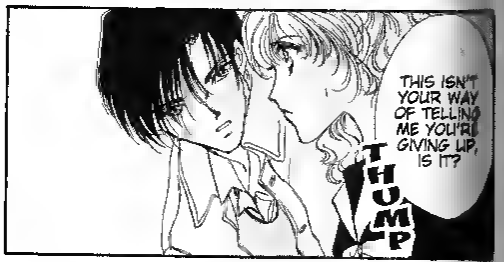
Actually, I want to try playing a match myself. But it's too tough for me to collect all the cards necessary to have a decent game. When I started drawing this story, I consulted a couple of my gamer friends for advice. (Thank you, Fukutsu-Kun and Oji-San), who told me that it's really not as expensive as I thought. Also, the artwork on a lot of cards is beautiful. Hmm, tempting. Maybe I will start collecting after all.

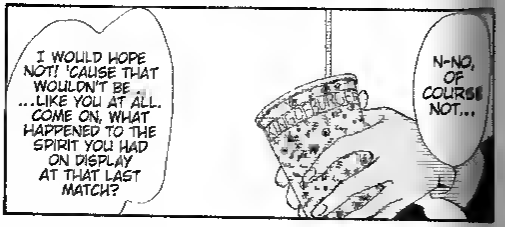
All of the cards in this story were made on a Mac. Everyone on my staff is a Mac user, so after the rough sketches are finished, they switch over to the Mac and insert the tinted cards. Getting the perspective right and (sometimes) having the cards overlap takes a long time. We also have to make sure the cards match up with the characters' hands!

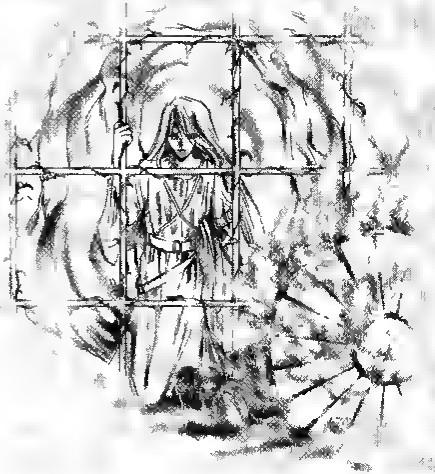
At the moment, we have about 50 cards done and they're all gonna debut before long.





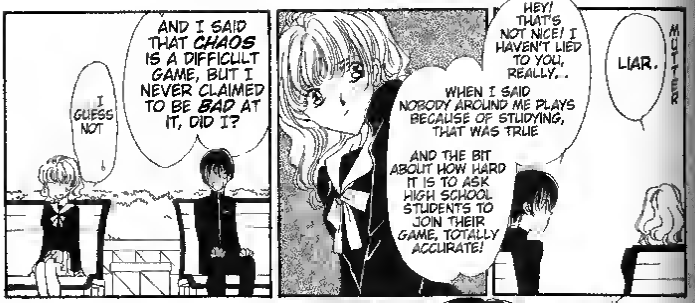






THERE, I FINALLY SAID IT!!
... PA-THET-IC!
BUT IT'S TRUE, COUSIN.
I'M SCARED ...
WHUMP
KYAAA!
CRATER
AH!
I-I'M SORR...
!

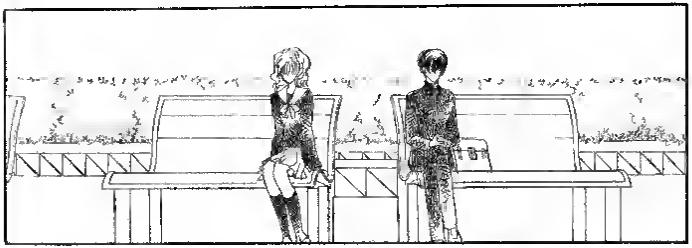
DON'T BE WORRIED ABOUT THE CARDS!
I'LL LEND YOU THE BEST ONES FROM MY COLLECTION.
AND REMEMBER, YOU'RE ONLY GONNA BE PLAYING AGAINST A JUNIOR HIGH KID..
TAMOTSU!
IT'S ME! I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO USE THEM...!!
HEY! MANAMI!
I'M SORRY! DON'T FOLLOW ME!!
IT'S NOT THE CARDS I'M WORRIED ABOUT.


I GUESS NOT
AND I SAID THAT CHAOS IS A DIFFICULT GAME, BUT I NEVER CLAIMED TO BE BAD AT IT, DID I?
HEY! THAT'S NOT NICE! I HAVEN'T LIED TO YOU, REALLY..
WHEN I SAID NOBODY AROUND ME PLAYS BECAUSE OF STUDYING, THAT WAS TRUE
AND THE BIT ABOUT HOW HARD IT IS TO ASK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO JOIN THEIR GAME, TOTALLY ACCURATE!
LIAR.
MUTTER

DID YOU WIN?
YEAH, FROM TIME TO TIME I JUST FINISHED A GAME WITH ANOTHER PLAYER OVER THE NETWORK
OF COURSE
SO YOU PLAY VIDEO GAMES, TOO, HUH?
IS YOUR GAME ALRIGHT? THAT WAS A NASTY FALL..
OH, NO, IT'S FINE. SEE?
IT'S PRETTY BORING EVERYONE'S SO WEAK AND THEY GET TICKED OFF WHEN I KEEP BEATING THEM

IN FACT...
...AT THE MOMENT, THE ONLY GAME I DON'T HAVE A PERFECT RECORD WITH IS CHAOS.

HI-KA-MI-KUN...!
I'M SCARED OF LOSING...!



I'M PSYCHED.
IT'LL BE MY FIRST TIME PLAYING OUTSIDE.
SO WE'LL MEET HERE FOR OUR MATCH, RIGHT? TOMORROW AT FIVE.

IF THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU WANT HIM, I'M NOT LETTING YOU HAVE "SAHGAN!"
HOW BORING...
...TO PLAY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF WINNING.
SEE YOU TO-MOR-ROW

THE FIRST TIME I LOST WAS A NOVELTY. BUT ONCE WAS ENOUGH.
LOSING REALLY SUCKS, Y'KNOW?
WELL, I KNOW IT FEELS GOOD TO WIN, BUT...
IT FEELS GOOD? NO, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF COURSE
WITH "SAHGAN" IN MY DECK, I FIGURE I'LL BE UNBEAT-ABLE. BUT DON'T WORRY.
ONCE I GET TIRED OF CHAOS, I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU.
THAT'S IT...?
BATTLE
EH...?
KEEP-ING THAT IN MIND...
...I'M SORRY, BUT I WANT "SAHGAN" TO BE MY PRIZE WHEN I WIN TOMOR-ROW.

IS THAT WHY HE PLAYS?
SEE YOU TO-MOR-ROW
HIKAMI...
YES?

WIN OR LOSE, I'M GOING TO FIGHT...
TEACH ME.
...YOU GOT IT!

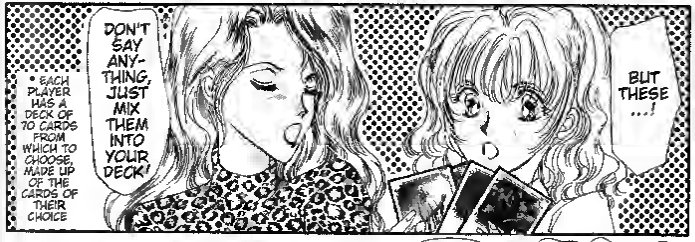
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
WHY ...?

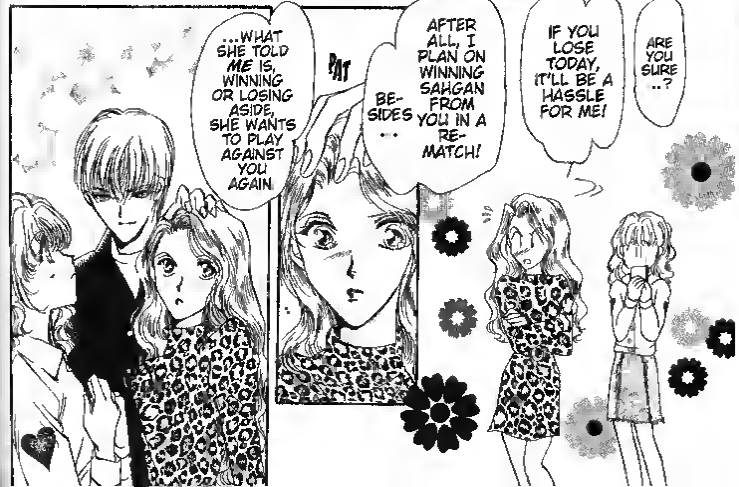
...WINNING AND NOT FEELING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
HEY...
...IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN..
IT'S FRUSTRATING TO LOSE...
...AND MAYBE EMBARRASSING, MAYBE PITIFUL... BUT STILL...

I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR PUTTING PRESSURE ON YOU
I JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE "SAHGAN" GET TAKEN AWAY.
YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD AND ARE FINALLY AT THE LEVEL WHERE YOU CAN PLAY...
I KNOW..
I'M SORRY FOR RUNNING AWAY, TAMOTSU.
BUT NOW I'M GOING TO STAND MY GROUND.
I'M GOING TO FIGHT!

I WANT TO PLAY MORE... A LOT MORE!
ME, TOO!
ARE YOU GUYS READY?
CLERK FROM CARD SHOP
YOU EACH START WITH 1,000 POINTS.
ROLL THE DICE.
WHO-EVER HAS THE HIGHER NUMBER GETS TO CHOOSE SIDES.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T LOSE HERE!!

EH?
AND I'M GLAD WE MADE IT IN TIME! HERE!
I'm glad you're here, anyway!
AH! MIYAKO-SAN!
MANA-MI-SAN!
PROB-ABLY ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SENT YOU CHAL-LENGES.
BUZZ
BUZZ
Why is there an audience?!


* EACH PLAYER HAS A DECK OF 70 CARDS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE MADE UP OF THE CARDS OF THEIR CHOICE
DON'T SAY ANY-THING, JUST MIX THEM INTO YOUR DECK!
BUT THESE ...!


...WHAT SHE TOLD ME IS, WINNING OR LOSING ASIDE, SHE WANTS TO PLAY AGAINST YOU AGAIN.
PAT
BE-SIDES ...
AFTER ALL I PLAN ON WINNING SAHGAN FROM YOU IN A RE-MATCH!
IF YOU LOSE TODAY, IT'LL BE A HASSLE FOR ME!
ARE YOU SURE ..?

THE "ANGELIC ARMY."
KLUK
4
BUZZ
ALL RIGHT, HIKAMI, YOU LEAD THE "DEMONIC ARMY."
BOTH OF YOU, SHUFFLE YOUR CARDS AND...
LET THE GAME BEGIN!
6!
YESSS!
MANAMI, IT'S YOUR CHOICE!
WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER COMMAND, THE "ANGELIC ARMY" OR "DEMONIC ARMY"?
THE BASIC RULES OF CHAOS ARE SIMILAR TO POKER. YOU "FIGHT" AGAINST YOUR OPPONENT WITH FIVE CARDS DRAWN FROM A DECK, USING PAIRS OR "FACE CARDS" TO ATTACK
ATTACK! TWO PAIRS OF "DARK UNICORNS" AND "DARK DRAGONS!"
Dark Unicorn lv 10 x 2
Dark Dragon lv 20 x 2
I DEFEND WITH TWO PAIRS OF "LIGHT DRAGONS" AND "SERAPHIM!"
Light Dragon lv 10 x 2
Seraphim lv 20 x 2
SLAP
WHEN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE POINTS ARE EQUAL, THE ATTACK HAS NO EFFECT.
SHE'S HOLDING HER OWN SO FAR.
THEY'RE JUST GETTING WARMED UP...
MANAMI WENT WITH THE "ANGELIC ARMY," BUT I DOUBT IT'S GONNA STAY THAT WAY FOR LONG!
ATTACK! THREE "ARCHANGEL MICHAELS!"
SLAP
Michael lv 50 x 3
UMM... LET'S SEE. "MICHAEL" IS USUALLY LEVEL 50, BUT SINCE HIKAMI IS PLAYING THE DEMONIC ARMY, THE CARDS' LEVEL GETS HALVED.
150 divided by 2 = 75
Cherubim lv 25 x 3
GRIN
I DEFEND WITH THREE "ANGELIC CHERUBIM!"

IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I'VE GOT JUST TO DEFEND MYSELF!
ATTACK! A FULL HOUSE OF "FALLEN ANGEL LUCIFERS" AND "NIGHTMARES!"
ATTACK! TWO PAIRS OF "FALLEN ANGEL BELIAL" AND "SUCCUBI!"
SLAP
...HE'S AS STRONG AS I IMAGINED.
SQUEEZE
BUT DESPITE THAT, HE KEEPS WHITTLING AWAY MY POINTS. WHAT CAN I DO?
!
SPIN
I DEFEND WITH A PAIR OF "ARCHANGEL MICHAELS!
AND FOLLOW UP...
ATTACK! TWO PAIRS OF "ARCHANGEL URIEL" AND "ARCHANGEL GABRIEL!"
SLAP
YES! I FINALLY GOT A BIG HAND! 200 POINTS!

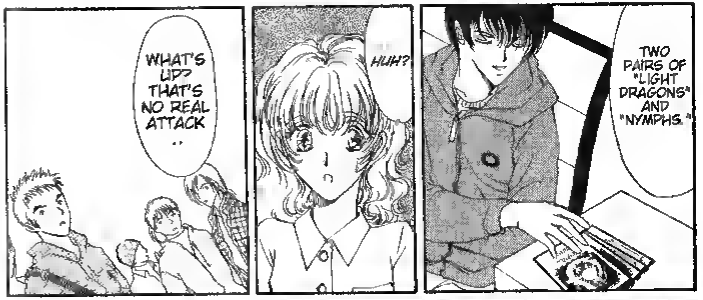
!!
COUNTER-ATTACK! EVENT CARD: "FALLEN ANGEL'S INVITATION!"
BUZZ
THERE IT IS! NOW ALL ANGELS IN PLAY BECOME "FALLEN ANGELS!"
SO "ARCHANGEL MICHAEL" TURNS TO THE "DARK SIDE".
...AND GETS HIS LEVEL BOOTED TO FULL POWER, LEVEL 150...
...WHILE MANAMI'S ANGELIC DEFENSE GETS CUT IN HALF!
NO WONDER HIKAMI'S CALLED THE "ANGEL!"
HIS DECK MUST BE STUFFED WITH CARDS LIKE THAT...!

HIKAMI'S SIDE
DEMONIC ARMY
ANGELIC ARMY
BUMP
MANAMI'S SIDE
ANGELIC ARMY
DEMONIC ARMY

SLAP
ANGEL ATTACKS!
ATTACK!!
...I THINK THIS IS WHAT HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR.
NOW HE'S GOT FREE REIGN TO DO WHAT HE'S BEST AT..
Foo
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

...WITH AN EVENT!
"HEAVENLY SWITCH!"
Heavenly Switch
Change armies with your partner
FWISH
"HEAVENLY SWITCH!" I KNEW IT!
THEY JUST EXCHANGED ARMIES!

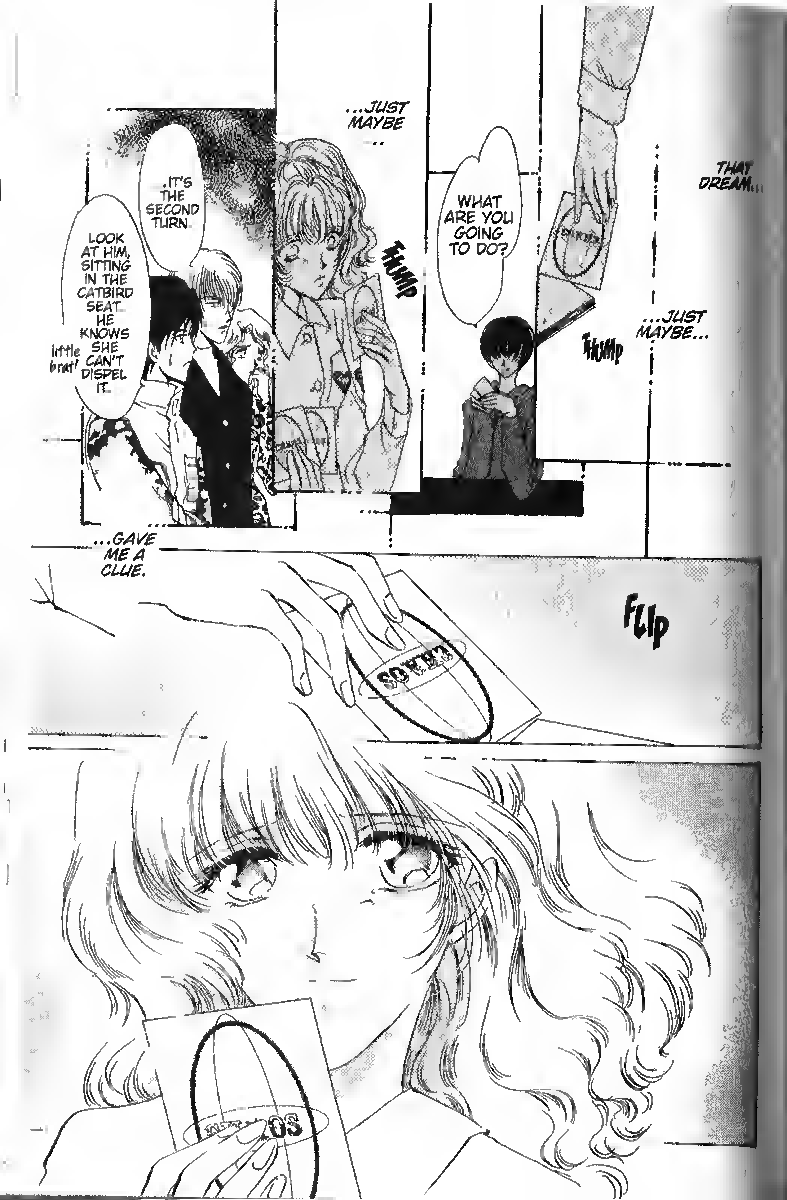
NO! DON'T BE RASH, MANAMI!
ATTACK!
A PAIR OF "GODDESS OF SORCERY HECATES" AND "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER!!"


WHAT'S UP? THAT'S NO REAL ATTACK..
HUH?
TWO PAIRS OF "LIGHT DRAGONS" AND "NYMPHS."

MAYBE HE JUST STACKED HIS DECK WITH DEMONIC ARMY CARDS?
...NO WAY.
THE KID'S SMARTER THAN THAT.

I'LL GET SAHGAN BACK AFTER THIS HAND ANYWAY, SO...I'M GONNA GO FOR IT!
...SAH-GAN..
...SO I MIGHT AS WELL USE HIM. IT'S A SIMPLE COMBO BUT IT'D CHIP AWAY AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT OF HAKAMI'S POINTS.
I'M ALMOST OUT OF CARDS. ONCE THE DECK IS DONE, ALL MY CARDS WILL BE RESHUFFLED, GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO GET NEW COMBOS..
NOW WHAT...?
GLANCE

COUNTER-ATTACK. THREE "OPHANIM ANGELS"...
..AND AN EVENT CARD, "CAPTIVE CAVE"
I'VE JUST CAPTURED "SAHGAN," MANAMI-SAN.
W-WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...?
FIRST, I USED "OPHANIM ANGELS" SPECIAL PROPER-TIES...
..TO CREATE A "GREEN RING" AND BY ASSEM-BLING THREE OF THEM, I GOT TO PLAY AN EVENT.
SO I USED "CAPTIVE CAVE," WHICH LETS YOU BLOCKADE AN OPPONENT'S CARD OF YOUR CHOICE.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
...."SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER" IS IMPRISONED IN MY "CAPTIVE CAVE."
..AND KEPT THERE BY OPHANIM'S "GREEN RING."
LET'S CON-TIN-UE.
HOW ...?
WELL ...
USUALLY, "CAPTIVE CAVE" ONLY LASTS FOR THREE TURNS, BUT UNLESS THE "GREEN RING" HE GENERATED IS MOVED, HER CARD IS OUT OF PLAY 'TIL THE END OF THE GAME.
...HE'S GOOD. THE EVENT'S ABOVE BOARD.
HEY, JUDGE! IS THAT LEGAL?!
CAN HE DO THAT...?
BUZZ
BUZZ


...JUST MAYBE..
THUMP
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
THUMP
THAT DREAM...
...JUST MAYBE...
IT'S THE SECOND TURN.
LOOK AT HIM, SITTING IN THE CATBIRD SEAT. HE KNOWS SHE CAN'T DISPEL IT.
little brat!
...GAVE ME A CLUE.
FLIP
CLASS
03

SIGHHH. MY DREAM CAME TRUE
I'M SORRY, SAHGAN.
IS SAHGAN GOING TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME?!
AM I DONE FOR?!
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO DISPEL HIS "EVENT!"
GASP
THAT DREAM..

...WHICH POWERS THEM UP TO LEVEL 20 AND MAKES THEM DANCE IN A CIRCLE, WHICH CREATES A "LIGHT RING"...
...THAT DE-STROYS YOUR "GREEN RING."
OH, AND BY THE WAY, THIS HAS BEEN THE THIRD TURN, SO THE BARS TO YOUR CAVE HAVE JUST TUMBLED TO THE GROUND.
...AND THE LEVELS OF THE CARDS IN-VOLVED BECOME THE SAME.
BECAUSE WHEN TWO SIMILAR EVENTS OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH ARE CANCELLED OUT.
GO AHEAD.
IT'S OKAY.

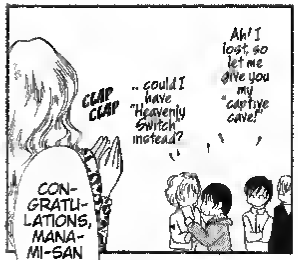
I'LL SAVE YOU, SAHGAN ...!
BUZZ
... WHA ...?!
AT-TACK!
THREE "PIXIES!"
...HA!
WHAT'S THIS? HAS THE STRESS ADDLED YOUR BRAIN? THAT HAND CAN'T..
AND AN EVENT. THE PIXIES DRINK WATER FROM THE "SMALL PAIL"...

...YOU'RE HAVING FUN NOW, AREN'T YOU?
BECAUSE OF THE LOOK OF DESPERATION ON YOUR FACE, I CAN SEE YOU'RE INTO THE GAME.
I'M HAVING FUN, TOO. MY HEART'S POUNDING LIKE A JACKHAMMER
SHE'S NOT LUCKY ...
ATTACK!
AH!
RIGHT?
...I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT KAZAMA WAS SAYING
"SAHGAN" IS FREE TO LEAVE YOUR CAVE
THANKS TO MY DREAM!
I REMEMBER THOSE THREE LITTLE KIDS SITTING AT HIS FEET IN THE DREAM...PIXIES!
.....JUDGE!
OHHH!
IT'S ACCEPTABLE.
YOU DID IT, MANAMI!!
STOW THE CHEERING!!
HIKAMI-KUN...
RIGHT!
KACHING
THIS GAME ISN'T OVER YET!!

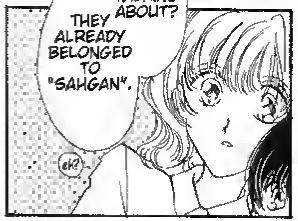
GAME OVER!
THE "FOUR GREAT SORCERERS" AND "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER" COMBINE TO MAKE...
...THE "DIVINE SORCERER"!
...BUT FORTUNE DEFINITELY SMILES ON HER.

I NEVER KNEW A GAME COULD MAKE YOU FEEL SO DRAINED.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, RIKI-KUN?!
FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT!
INCREDIBLE! SO THAT WAS THE FABLED "DIVINE SORCERER"!
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU MAD AT ME...?
NOT REALLY
TURN
AW! He is mad.
SPIN
JUST KIDDING.
"THE FOUR GREAT SORCERERS", LEVEL 50 X 4... PLUS "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER" BECOME "THE DIVINE SORCERER", LEVEL 1000.
WITH THIS ATTACK, RIKI HIKAMI'S POINTS ARE WIPED OUT...
WAA
AA
...AND MANAMI MINAMI WINS.
YAY!!
H-HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?!
.....
SLUMP
I'M BLOWN AWAY

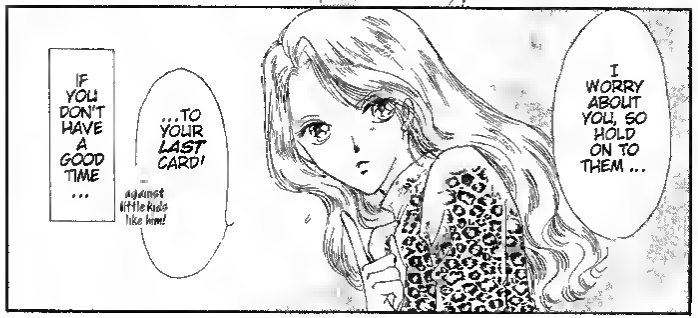
...IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.
FROM HERE ON OUT, KEEP DEFENDING THE "KING OF CARDS."
Okay, enough clinging!
THAT NIGHT, I DREAMT THAT SAHGAN ...
...WAS HOLDING A PIXIE IN HIS ARMS.
THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
AND THANK YOU, PIXIES, FOR MAKING THE FAIRY RING
KING OF CARDS 2: THE END


CLAP CLAP
CONGRATULATIONS, MANAMI-SAN
.. could I have "Heavenly Switch" instead?
Ah! I lost, so let me give you my "captive cave!"

AH! MIYAKO-SAN! THANKS TO YOUR "FOUR GREAT SORCERERS," I WON!
WHATEVER ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

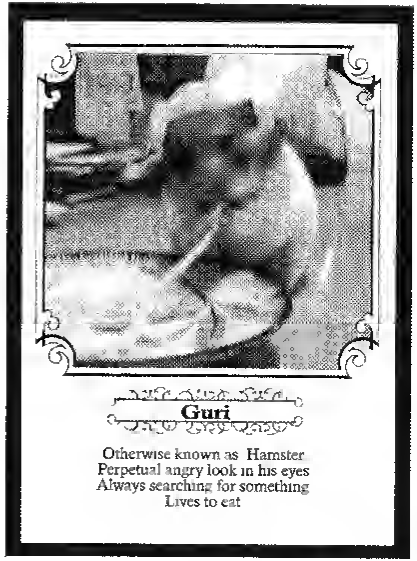

THEY ALREADY BELONGED TO "SAHGAN".
eh?

I HAD FUN.
HE'S GOT IT. GAMES ARE FUN.


IF YOU DON'T HAVE A GOOD TIME ...
...TO YOUR LAST CARD!
against little kids like him!
I WORRY ABOUT YOU, SO HOLD ON TO THEM ...

KING OF CARDS

カードの王様（おうさま）3

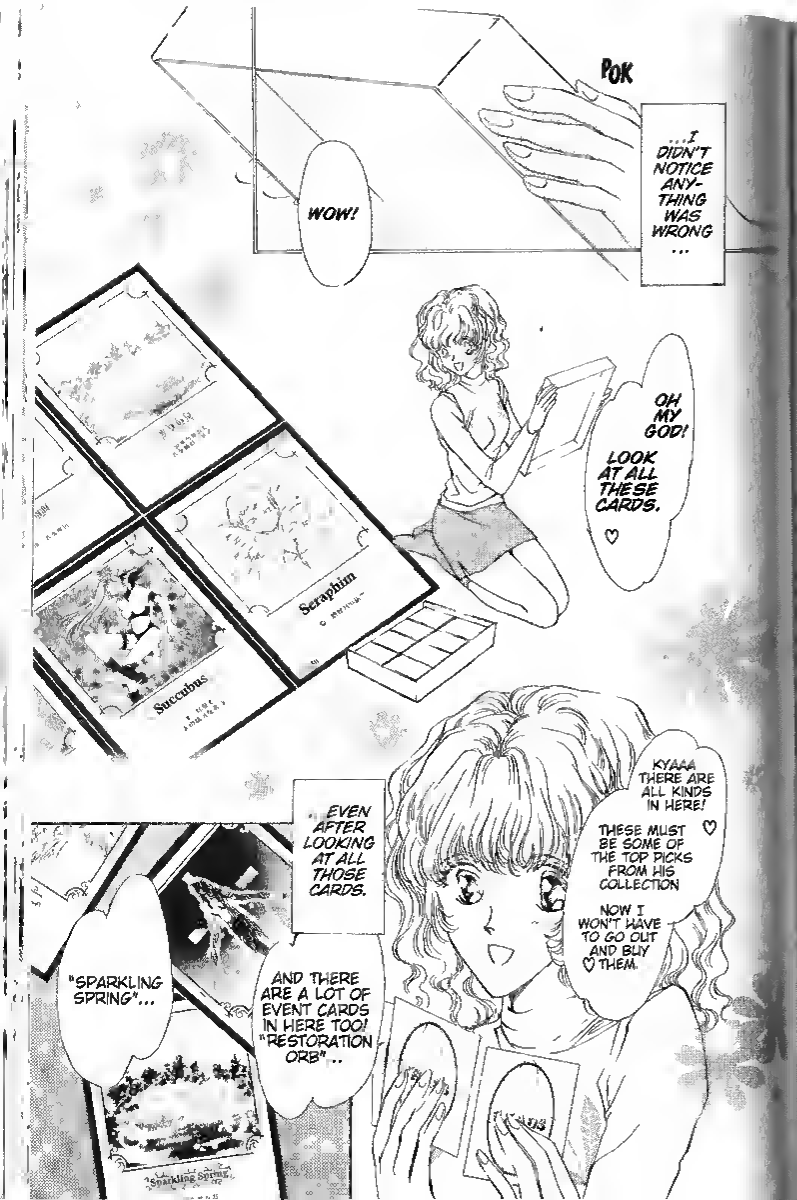


Guri

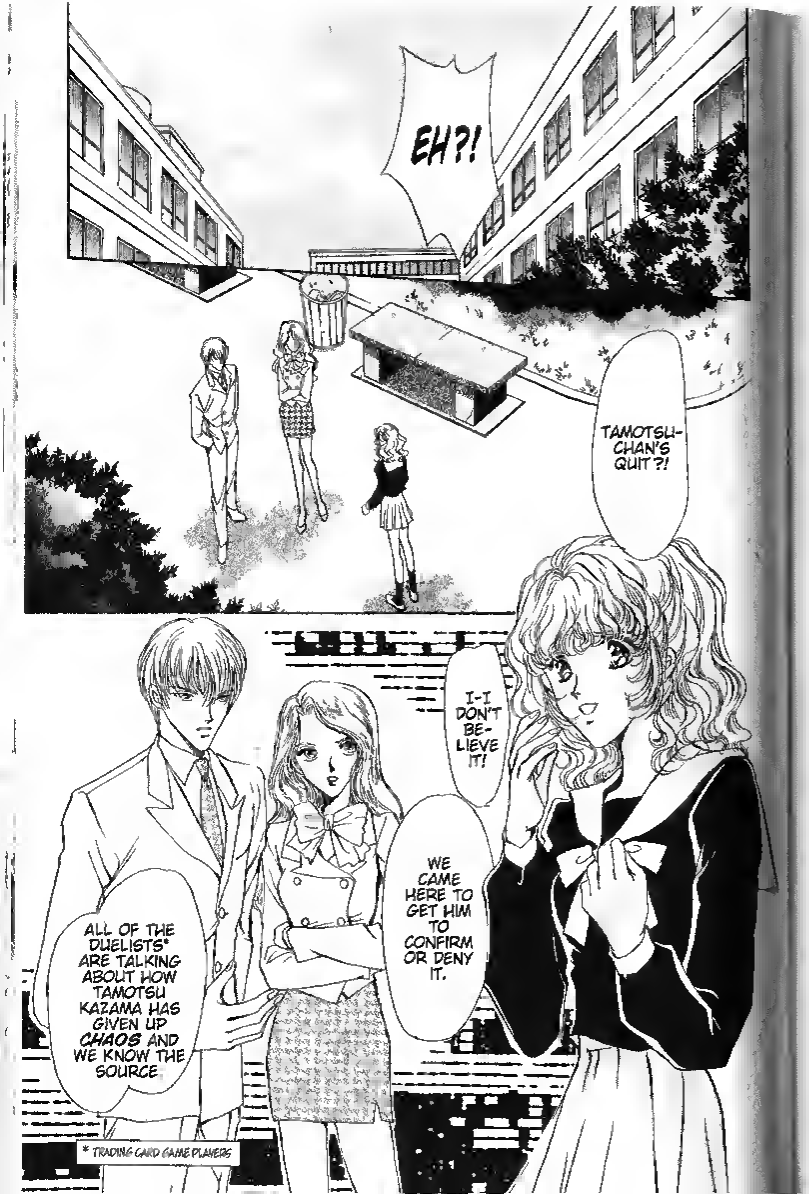
Otherwise known as Hamster
Perpetual angry look in his eyes
Always searching for something
Lives to eat

I'M WORKING ON MY DECK FOR CHAOS, THE TRADING CARD GAME.
GULP
WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM? YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ME FOR EXTRA MONEY BEFORE
YOU'RE NOT TAKING UP ANY EXPENSIVE BAD HABITS, ARE YOU?
N-NO!
I JUST NEED $20.00!
N-O!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN YOUR ALLOWANCE FOR THIS MONTH!
THE MORE CARDS THAT I HAVE TO CHOOSE FROM, THE STRONGER IT'LL BE ALTHOUGH MAMA WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
MANAMI, SOMEBODY'S HERE! GO SEE WHO IT IS!
DING-DONG
THERE'S A WAR GOING ON INSIDE ME, BETWEEN THE PART OF ME THAT'S A GIRL AND THE NEW PART OF ME THAT'S A GAMER.
HUMMM ...I DO WANT TO BUY NEW CLOTHES, TOO, THOUGH ...
I ALREADY BOUGHT FIVE BOOSTER PACKS THIS MONTH.
10-CARD SET FOR $3.50
YO.
OH! TAMOTSU?
...I'VE BEEN TOTALLY INTO CHAOS.
EVER SINCE I GOT "SAHGAN," STRONGEST CARD IN THE GAME.
ALL RIGHT!
PAT
PAT-PAT

...WE'RE GOING TO RELIEVE YOU OF THIS, TAMOTSU KAZAMA
IF YOU WANT IT BACK, THE DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN FOR A REMATCH, DUDE.
HAHAHAHA
BAM
..DAMN!
MAMA, PLEEEASE ...


POK
WOW!
...I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY-THING WAS WRONG ...
OH MY GOD! LOOK AT ALL THESE CARDS. ♡
Seraphim
Succubus
KYAAA THERE ARE ALL KINDS IN HERE! ♡
THESE MUST BE SOME OF THE TOP PICKS FROM HIS COLLECTION
NOW I WON'T HAVE TO GO OUT AND BUY ♡ THEM.
"...EVEN AFTER LOOKING AT ALL THOSE CARDS.
AND THERE ARE A LOT OF EVENT CARDS IN HERE TOO! "RESTORATION ORB"..
"SPARKLING SPRING"...
Sparkling Spring

OH, TAMO-TSU?
...HERE. IT'S ALL YOURS.
GIVE ME WHAT ?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU NEVER RING THE BELL.
AH, I GOTTA GET GOING RIGHT AWAY.
I JUST DROPPED BY TO GIVE YOU SOME-THING.
AT THE TIME ...
TAKE CARE OF IT
AH, NO THANKS, AUNTY. I'VE GOT PLANS.
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER COME ON IN.
OH, REALLY?
AREN'T WE CRYPTIC TODAY!
WELL, SEE YOU LATER, MANAMI.
WAIT A SECOND, WHAT IS THIS?

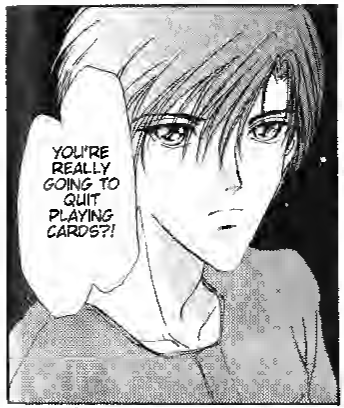

EH?!
TAMOTSU-CHAN'S QUIT?!
I-I DON'T BE-LIEVE IT!
WE CAME HERE TO GET HIM TO CONFIRM OR DENY IT.
ALL OF THE DUELISTS* ARE TALKING ABOUT HOW TAMOTSU KAZAMA HAS GIVEN UP CHAOS AND WE KNOW THE SOURCE
* TRADING CARD GAME PLAYERS

BAM
TAP TAP TAP
EXCUSE ME! IS MINAMI-SAN HERE?!
GAMING CLUB
TAP TAP TAP
I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST A PRESENT FROM MY COUSIN
MIYAKO-SAN KO-SAN..
COME WITH ME!
KAZAMA-KUN'S NOT HERE?
NO, HE HASN'T SHOWN UP YET.
Although, come to think of it he is late...
GLANCE GLANCE
WHAT, ARE YOU HERE FOR A RE-MATCH?
TAP TAP TAP

TAMO-TSU!!
BAM
MY COUSIN'S NO QUITTER!!
THAT RUMOR ALSO HAS IT THAT THE GHOUL BROTHERS' NEXT TARGET IS "SAWGAN."
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE!!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH ...
...WHICH MEANS YOU'VE PROB-ABLY HEARD...
...MANA-MI.
I'VE GOTTA GO
MANAMI-SAN?
SO THAT'S WHY HE GAVE ME SO MANY OF HIS PRECIOUS CARDS
EH?
HERE. IT'S ALL YOURS.
GASP
I'M GOING TO MY COUSIN'S HOUSE!
SWISH
AH! WAIT!
THERE ARE THESE TWO GUYS CALLED THE "GHOUL BROTHERS"
...SO NAMED BECAUSE OF THEIR FONDNESS FOR USING MONSTER TYPE CARDS.
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS THEY BEAT KAZAMA A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. AND THAT'S HOW THE RUMOR GOT STARTED.
HE'S QUITTING CHAOS__?!
I HAD ONE MORE IMPORTANT THING TO TELL HER..
TALK ABOUT IM-PATIENT

...ANGEL OF DE-STRUC-TION."

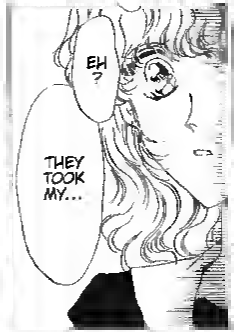
SO THAT'S WHY I TURNED OVER MY COLLECTION TO YOU. FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU USE 'EM. YOU'RE THE KEEPER OF THE FLAME, MANAMI.
I WON'T
EH?
...WITH-OUT THAT CARD, I JUST FEEL KINDA EMPTY
IT'S TRUE. IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT THE CHANCE TO USE THE CARD THAT OFTEN...BUT A LOSS IS A LOSS.
OH, NO...


YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO QUIT PLAYING CARDS?!

IS IT TRUE...?

THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU! GIVING UP JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT BEATEN ONCE...
IT WASN'T JUST THAT.

OH, I GOT THE PANTS BEATEN OFF OF ME A COUPLE DAYS AGO...
W-WHY?!
...AND FIGURED IT WAS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO GET OUT.
TAMOTSU!

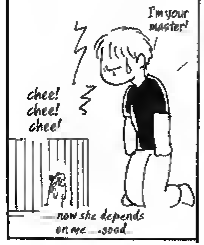

EH?
THEY TOOK MY...

..YEAH.

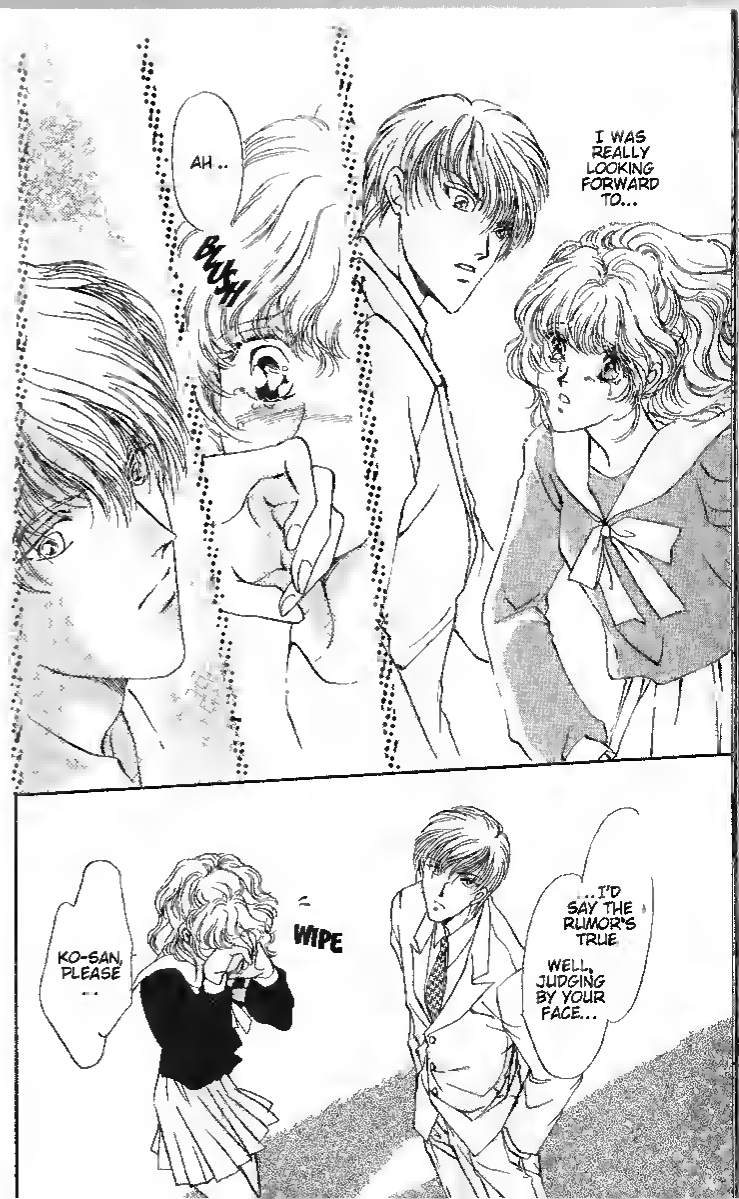
By the way the card shown after the title page was a hamster, right? That's my baby. Guri (full name: Dangun) is a girl hamster and recently she had a false pregnancy, which was super-disappointing to me, because I was waiting for my baby's baby! Oh well, next time for sure! Give me a cute grandchi... grandhamster!!

I wonder if this is how old women feel. Guri's "husband" is Maro, a cream-colored hamster that follows Guri around wherever she goes. My girl is so beautiful, she could be a model! (Aw! I saying that just because she's mine? No, it's true!) I'll make up a card for Maro, too, for the next volume. So I finally went and bought a digital camera so I could take a lot of pet pics... but in every shot, Guri looks ugly, while Maro looks incredibly cute!! So that's why her face on the card is hideous, but I promise you the real thing looks at least a little cuter. Really.

* Right after I moved away from my parents, Guri wouldn't do anything for a while but stand up, cheep at me angrily and cry tears of blood!

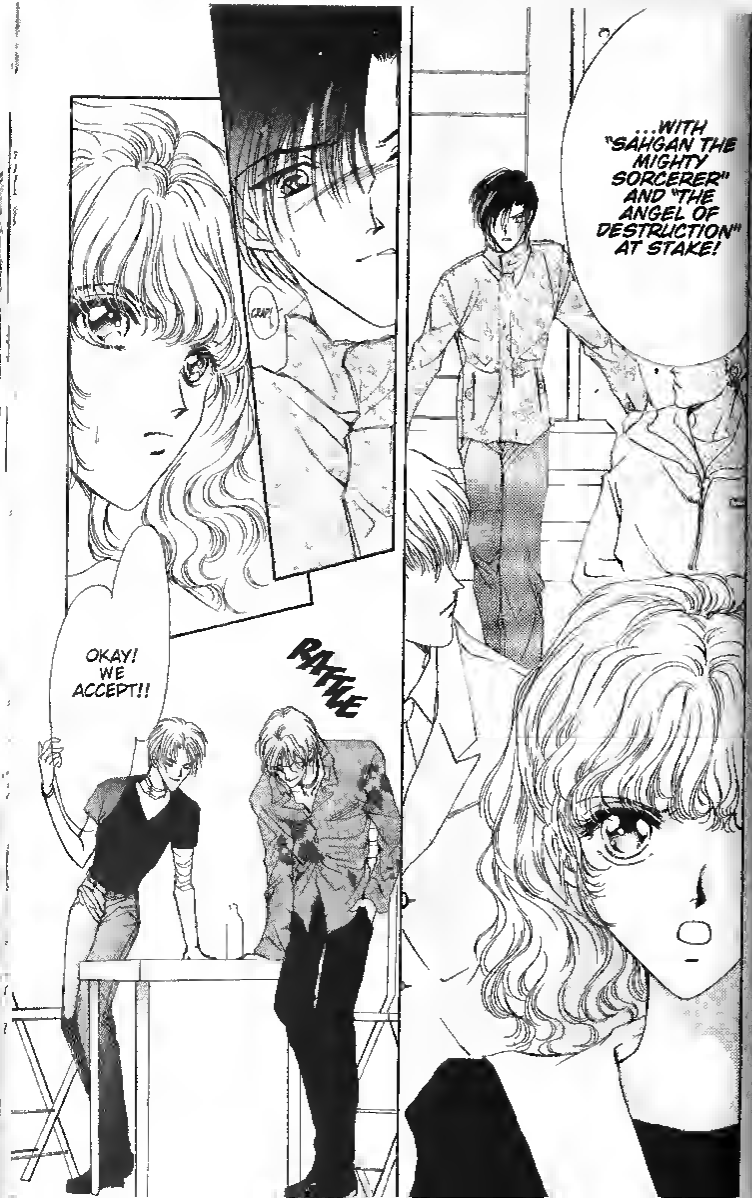


...TAKE ME TO THEM.
THE GHOUL BRO-THERS ?
WHAT FOR?
I'M GOING TO ASK THEM TO GIVE ME BACK THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION". AND IF THEY REFUSE...
IF THEY RE-FUSE?
...I'M GOING TO QUIT PLAYING CHAOS TOO...!!
...JEEZ...
...GETTING TO PLAY WITH...
...MY GAME-PLAYING EXPERT COUSIN...
...WAS MY GREAT PLEASURE.
BUZZ
ACTUALLY...
RUN GAME TOO CLUB

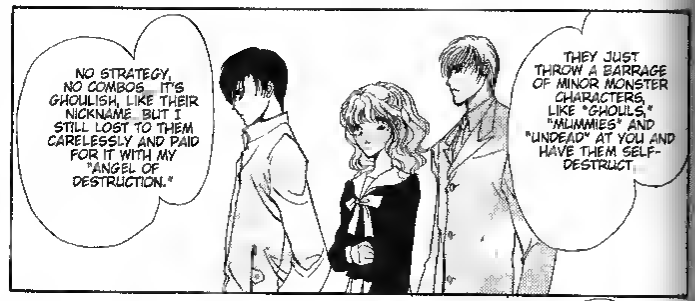

AH..
BUSH
I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO...
KO-SAN, PLEASE...
WIPE
...I'D SAY THE RUMOR'S TRUE
WELL, JUDGING BY YOUR FACE...

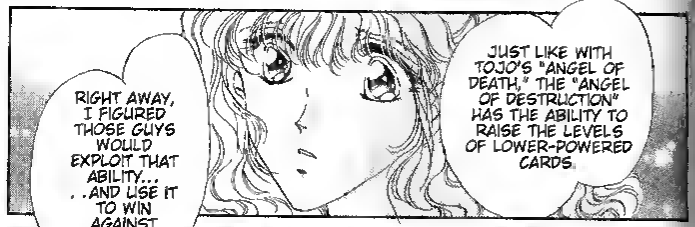
I EXPECT YOU WANT TO HAVE WORDS ABOUT THIS?
THESE TWO ARE THE GHOUL BROTHERS ...?
YOU DID COME HERE TO SEE US, RIGHT?
BINGO.
"THE ANGEL OF DESTRUC-TION!"
AH.. I WAS THINKING ANOTHER CARD IN EX-CHANGE ...
GIVEN THE RIGHT INCENTIVE, WE COULD RETURN IT, BUT... WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO OFFER?
BUT THAT CARD MEANS SO MUCH TO HIM.
LUNGH
DON'T EVEN!
WE WON IT FAIR AND SQUARE BY BEATING HIM IN A MATCH!
HAH?
I KNOW THAT... BUT...
WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE IT BACK TO TAMOTSU-CHAN?

...THE ONLY REASON I STARTED PLAYING THIS GAME WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE DOING IT!!
...YO!
KO "THE ANGEL OF DEATH," TOJO AND MANAMI "SAHGAN" MINAMI!
WE WERE WON-DERING WHEN YOU WERE GONNA SHOW UP.
BUZZ BUZZ
A high school girl!

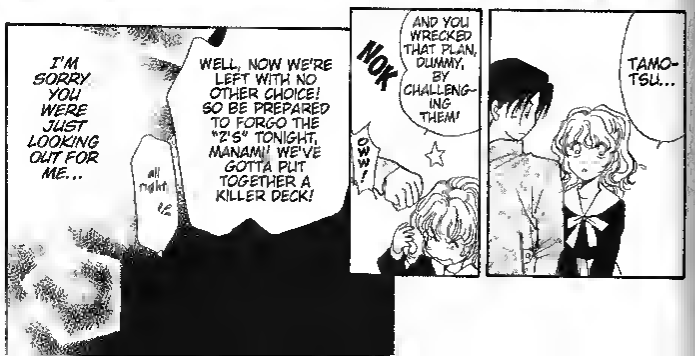

...WITH "SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SORCERER" AND "THE ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION" AT STAKE!
GASP!
OKAY! WE ACCEPT!!
RATTLE

WE WORKED HARD TO TAKE YOUR COUSIN DOWN AND THIS IS THE FRUIT OF OUR LABOR!
AND YOU WANT US TO TRADE IT? WHAT KIND OF IDIOTS DO YOU TAKE US FOR?!
BUZZ
BUZZ
YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT, DON'T YOU, LITTLE GIRL? THE ONE THING THAT WOULD GET US TO RETURN THE CARD.
GULP
YES.
PLEASE...!
...PLAY AGAINST ME...
TA TA TA TA
BAM
MA-NAM!!

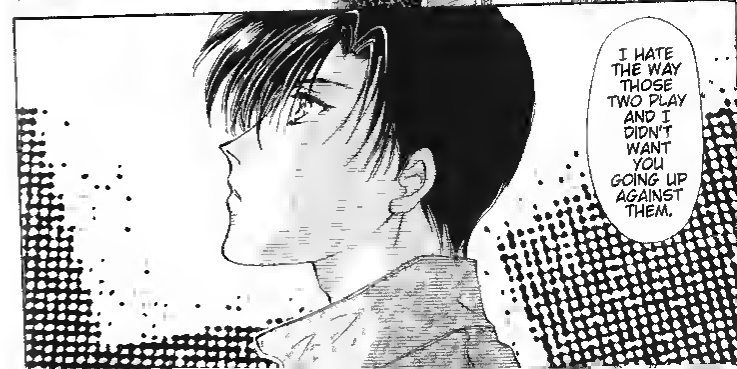

NO STRATEGY, NO COMBOS... IT'S GHOULISH, LIKE THEIR NICKNAME. BUT I STILL LOST TO THEM CARELESSLY AND PAID FOR IT WITH MY "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION."
THEY JUST THROW A BARRAGE OF MINOR MONSTER CHARACTERS, LIKE "GHOULS," "MUMMIES" AND "UNDEAD" AT YOU AND HAVE THEM SELF-DESTRUCT.


RIGHT AWAY, I FIGURED THOSE GUYS WOULD EXPLOIT THAT ABILITY... ..AND USE IT TO WIN AGAINST YOU...
JUST LIKE WITH TOJO'S "ANGEL OF DEATH," THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION" HAS THE ABILITY TO RAISE THE LEVELS OF LOWER-POWERED CARDS.

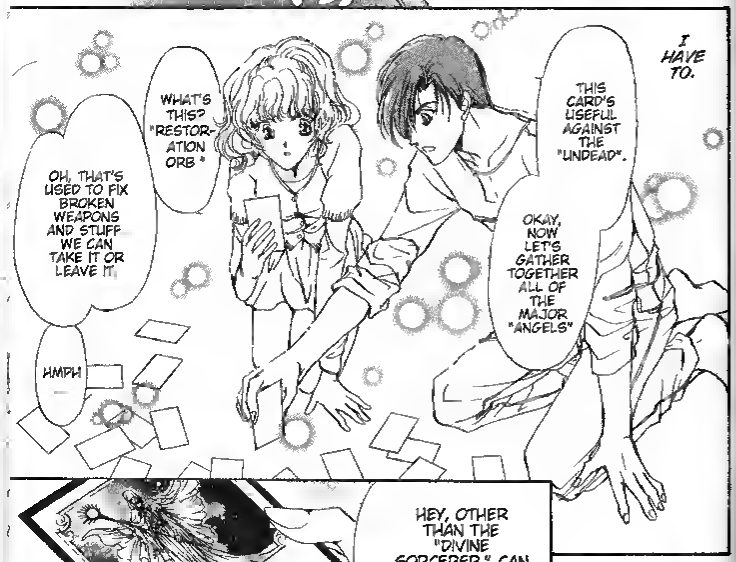
...WHICH IS WHY I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BETTER JUST TO QUIT.


I'M SORRY YOU WERE JUST LOOKING OUT FOR ME...
all right
WELL, NOW WE'RE LEFT WITH NO OTHER CHOICE! SO BE PREPARED TO FORGO THE "2'S" TONIGHT, MANAMI! WE'VE GOTTA PUT TOGETHER A KILLER DECK!
NOK
AND YOU WRECKED THAT PLAN, DUMMY, BY CHALLENGING THEM!
GWWI
TAMO-TSU...

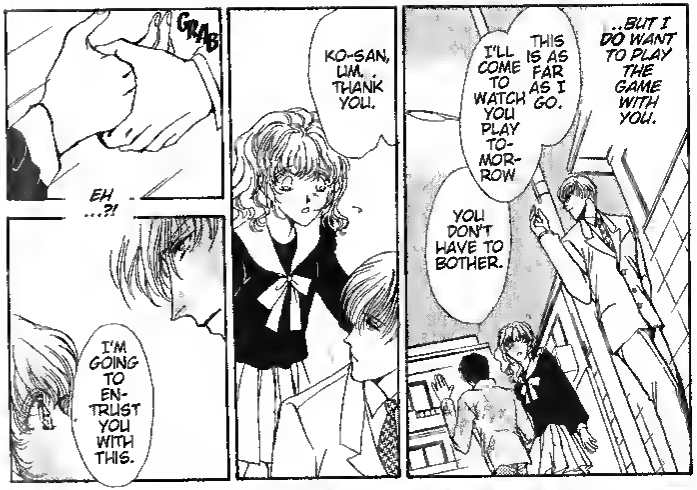
I SUSPECT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. KNOWING THEY WERE GUNNING FOR "SAHGAN," YOU PLAYED IN HER STEAD, AND LOST...
BULL'S-EYE
...TURNED OVER "THE ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION" AND THEN QUIT, WHICH YOU THOUGHT WOULD KEEP "SAHGAN" OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
IS HE RIGHT?!
uh...
WHAT?! AFTER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME, ABOUT "KEEPING THE TORCH BURNING"...?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO QUICK TO THROW DOWN THE GAUNTLET?
...I WAS AFRAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN
BE HERE TOMORROW NIGHT AT 7...
THE BOTH OF YOU. WE'LL DO THIS TWO ON TWO


I HATE THE WAY THOSE TWO PLAY AND I DIDN'T WANT YOU GOING UP AGAINST THEM.

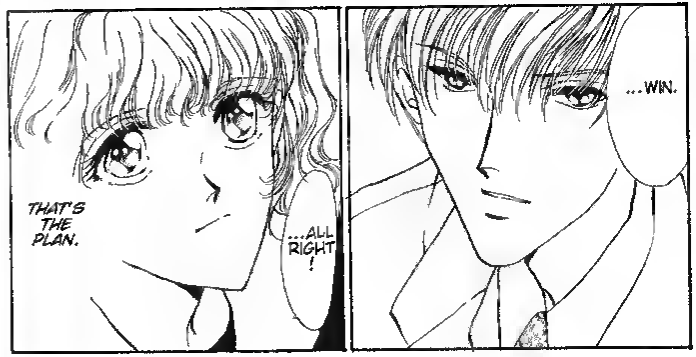
I DIDN'T DO IT TO BE "NICE".
STUPID ...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN YOU TREATING ANOTHER GIRL AS NICELY AS YOU TREAT ME.
AND THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO WIN TOMORROW.
MIYAKO.
I SAW THAT.
AFTER ALL, I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING THIS GAME.

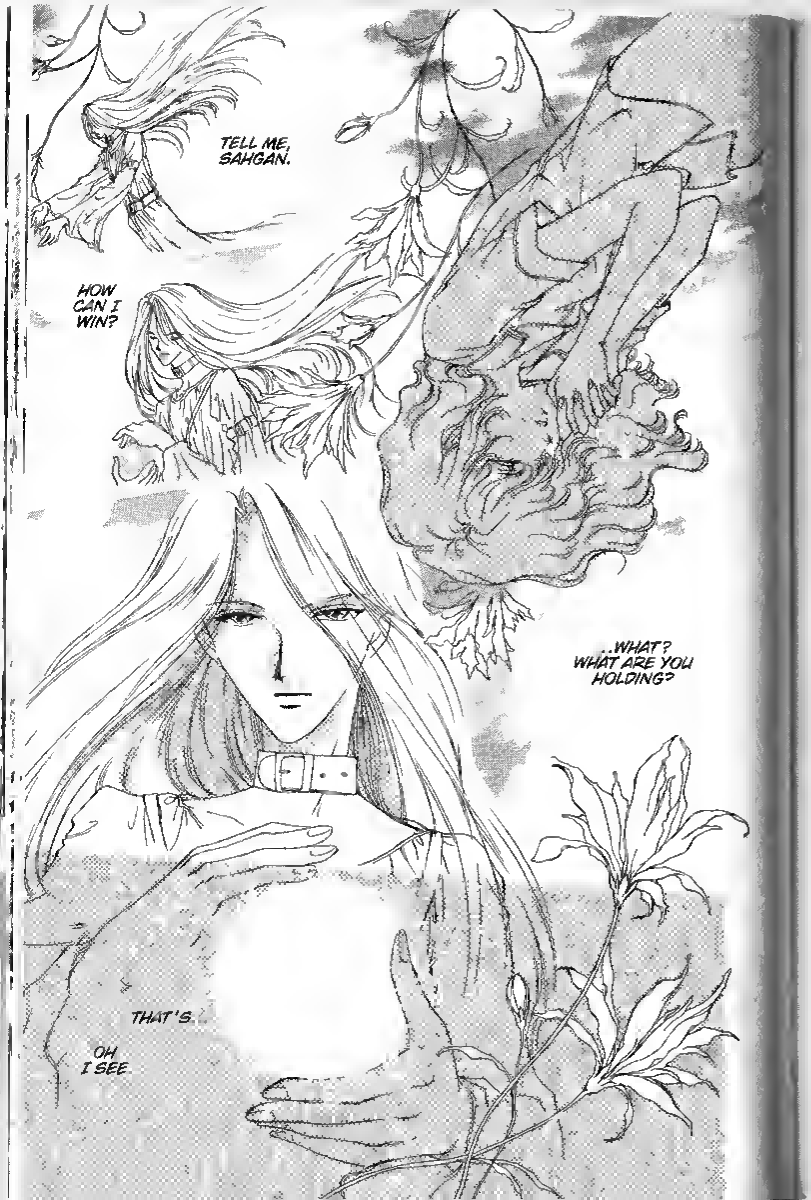

OH, THAT'S USED TO FIX BROKEN WEAPONS AND STUFF WE CAN TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.
WHAT'S THIS? "RESTORATION ORB"
HMPH
THIS CARD'S USEFUL AGAINST THE "UNDEAD".
OKAY, NOW LET'S GATHER TOGETHER ALL OF THE MAJOR "ANGELS"
I HAVE TO.

HEY, OTHER THAN THE "DIVINE SORCERER," CAN "SAHGAN" FORM ANY OTHER COMBINATIONS?


GRAB
EH ...?!
I'M GOING TO ENTRUST YOU WITH THIS.
KO-SAN, UM.. THANK YOU.
THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO.
I'LL COME TO WATCH YOU PLAY TOMORROW
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER.
..BUT I DO WANT TO PLAY THE GAME WITH YOU.

"THE ANGEL OF DEATH"...!
IT'LL PROBABLY COME IN HANDY.
IT'S EQUAL TO THE CARD THEY TOOK FROM HIM.


THAT'S THE PLAN.
...ALL RIGHT!
...WIN.

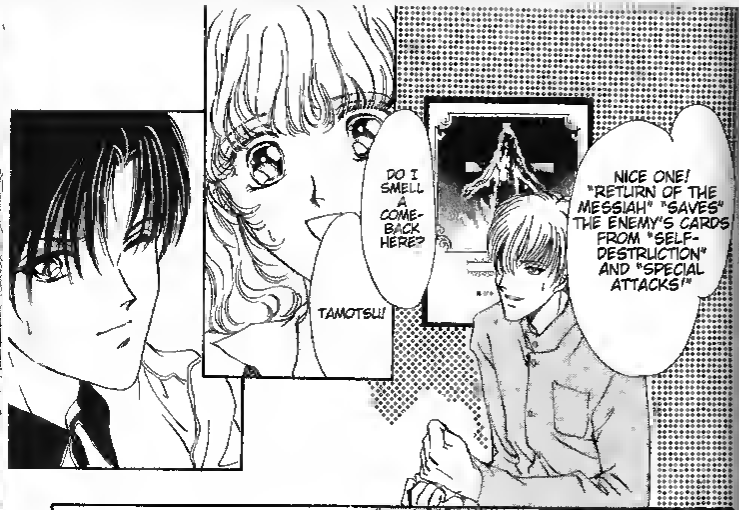

TELL ME, SAHGAN.
HOW CAN I WIN?
..WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING?
THAT'S.
OH I SEE

LET ME SEE, LET ME SEE ♡
AH, IT'S WRITTEN IN HERE A LIST OF "PHANTOM CONFIGURATIONS."
More than I thought
THERE'S EVEN ONE FOR THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION."
HUH ..
STRATEGY GUIDE
CHAOS
...I'LL LEND IT YOU ONE OF THESE DAYS... IF WE GET IT BACK.
THAT NIGHT, I MADE A WISH TO SAHGAN.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T PLAYED 2 ON 2 BEFORE,
IT'S LIKE DOUBLES. THE DECK'S TWICE AS BIG.
EACH PLAYER'S GOT THE USUAL 1,000 POINTS, WITH THE PARTNERS TAKING TURNS ATTACKING.
NO QUESTIONS? THEN LET'S DO THIS.
ROLL IT, MANAMI.
KRAK
KRAK
SIX GIVES US THE OPENING MOVE...
...AND I CALL "DEMONIC ARMY."

THAT CARD.
BUZZ
BUZZ
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY COZY?
HIS PARTNER'S THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO'S GOT "SAHGAN."
THE GHOUL BROTHERS ARE PLAYING AGAINST KAZAMA
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
EH? I THOUGHT KAZAMA QUIT CHAOS
LOOKS LIKE HE'S MAKIN' A COMEBACK WITH A 2 ON 2 GAME.

THEY'RE STRONG PLAYERS... BUT IT'S A CHEAP WAY TO PLAY.
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE CARDS.
THEY JUST PACK CARDS IN THEIR DECK TO TOSS OUT INDISCRIMINATELY, AS LONG AS THEY'RE BACKED UP WITH "SELF-DESTRUCTS."
WHAT AN UNDERHANDED WAY TO PLAY. I CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH.
MIYAKO.
WHAT?
WHAT?! WHAT'S SHE THINKING?! WITHOUT THESE, SHE CAN'T MAKE THE "DIVINE SORCERER!"
...PROBABLY ONE OF KAZAMA'S PRINCIPLES.
MANAMI TOLD ME TO GIVE THESE BACK TO YOU.
!
ESPECIALLY WITH THE GUYS THEY'RE PLAYING AGAINST...
...HE WANTS THEM TO WIN BY THEIR OWN POWER.
HEY, TAMOTSU?
EVENT CARDS CAN BE ADDED ON TO COMBINATIONS TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF ATTACK.
CARDS THAT ARE AFFECTED BY THE "SELF-DESTRUCT" EVENT GAIN 30 LEVELS EACH WHEN STRIKING THE ENEMY.
FOLLOWED BY AN EVENT "SELF-DESTRUCT."
FLIP
ATTACK! A FULL HOUSE OF "UNDEADS" AND "GHOULS"
SLAP
THE MORE OF THE SAME FACE CARDS OR SUITS YOU HAVE, THE STRONGER YOUR HAND.
THE RULES OF "CHAOS" ARE SIMILAR TO POKER.
...HE WAS RIGHT.
I DEFEND WITH A PAIR OF "GOLEMS"...
...AND TACK ON AN EVENT CARD; "SPECIAL ATTACK."
I'M ATTACKING WITH THREE "CHERUBIM!"
BOOSTING THEIR LEVELS WITH EVENT CARDS LIKE "SELF-DESTRUCT" AND "SPECIAL ATTACK" TO SHAVE AWAY MORE OF OUR POINTS.
...AND EVEN IF THE CARDS ARE WEAK...
THROWING OUT "GHOULS," "UNDEAD," LIKE THAT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY...
THEY'RE PLAYING JUST LIKE HE SAID THEY WOULD.



ANYWAY, NOW'S NO TIME TO PONDER...

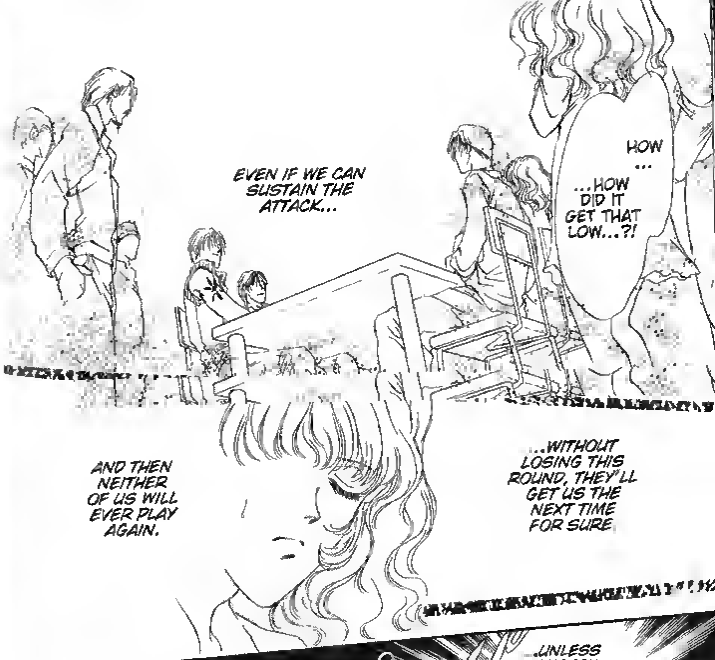
WHAP
ALL RIGHT!
Ditto
The suspense is killing me.
BUZZ BUZZ
NOW THAT GIRL'S GOT GAME!
I SAY LUCK'S ON HER SIDE, AS ALWAYS!
TIME TO TAKE OFF THE KID GLOVES.
...I GET IT. WE'VE BEEN UNDER-ESTIMATING HER.
YOU READY?
I ATTACK ...
...WITH A "HEAVENLY DESTRUC-TION STRAIGHT!"

GASP
WELL?
WHAT CAN I PLAY IN DE-FENSE ...?
STRONG CARDS... LEVEL 40 X 3...
"THE THREE GORGON SISTERS!!"
"HEAVENLY MIRROR?" WHY WOULD YOU...? AH!
THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN THE GORGON SISTERS LOOK AT THEMSELVES, THEY TURN TO STONE. SO YOUR ATTACK HAS NO EFFECT AND YOU'RE FROZEN FOR ONE TURN!
* The judge is the owner of this place
DAM-MIT!
JUDGE!
IT'S BY THE BOOK.
THIS CARD!!
I DEFEND WITH...
AN EVENT: EAVEN-LY MIR-ROR!!"

BUZZ
A "HEAVENLY DESTRUCTION STRAIGHT"! WITH THE "ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION'S" POWER, THE REST OF THE MONSTER CARDS IN HIS HAND GET UPPED 30 LEVELS!
SO WITH FOUR MONSTER CARDS WITH LEVEL 20 OR ABOVE, THAT MAKES 250!
BUZZ
BUZZ
HOW MANY POINTS DOES MANAMI-SAN HAVE LEFT?!
EXACTLY 250!
MINAMI
1000
520
440
400
320
250
THEY'RE PLAYING IT ALREADY?!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DEFEND WITH!!
HEH-HEH.
NOT BAD, HUH? THAT'S A LEVEL 250 ATTACK

BUZZ
"THE ANGEL OF DESTRUC-TION!!"

QUICK! DRAW CARDS!
MA-NA-MI?!
IS THAT GIRL CRAZY?! USING "SAHGAN" TO DEFEND?!
AND PAIRED UP WITH A PAIR OF "PIXIES!"
AMA-TEUR!!
PLEASE BE THE ONE!!
"THE ANGEL OF DEATH!"


EVEN IF WE CAN SUSTAIN THE ATTACK...
HOW ...
...HOW DID IT GET THAT LOW...?!
AND THEN NEITHER OF US WILL EVER PLAY AGAIN.
...WITHOUT LOSING THIS ROUND, THEY'LL GET US THE NEXT TIME FOR SURE

SLAP
...UNLESS TAMOTSU AND I WORK TOGETHER!!
DE-FEND!
"SAHGAN THE MIGHTY SOR-CERER" AND A PAIR OF "PIXIES!"

THE "RESTORATION ORB" FIXES BROKEN ITEMS...
...AND PUTS THINGS BACK TOGETHER IF THERE'S A MISSING "PIECE."
IN THIS CASE, THE "ANGEL OF DEATH" CALLS FOR HIS MISSING HALF...
...TO MAKE UP THE "TWIN ANGELS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION"!

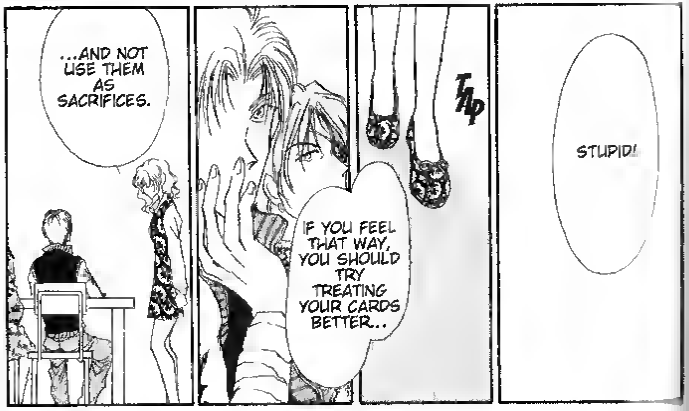
OKAY GUYS, EVENT!
W-WHAT? HURRY UP AND LAY YOUR HAND DOWN.
HA HA...
UNBELIEV-ABLE.
FATE REALLY DOES LOVE YOU, MANAMI ...
...BUT IT'S NOT ALONE.
THE "ANGEL OF DEATH" ...
...USES THE "RESTORATION ORB!"

...IF WE TAKE THE "TWIN ANGELS OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION"...
...TOTALLING LEVEL 200, THAT ARE ALREADY ON THE TABLE..
...AND ADD "SAHGAN", WHO'S STILL HERE...
...DEFENDING...

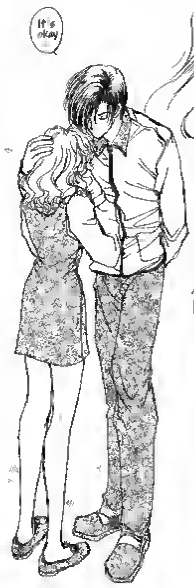
OOOH
I-IS THAT...
...EVEN ALLOWED, JUDGE?!
!
IT'S GOOD.
BUZZ
THEN THAT MEANS...
UH-HUH.

THE WINNERS ARE TAMOTSU KAZAMA AND MANAMI MINAMI!!
WHOOO
THAT ATTACK'S LEVEL 1,000...
...WHICH WIPES OUT THE GHOUL BROTHERS' REMAINING POINTS!
GAME OVER!
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
PHEW! WE PULLED THAT OFF BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH...
...TAMOTSU...
...THANK YOU, MANAMI.

...WE GET THE "PHANTOM CONFIG-URATION"...
...OF THE "LINKED CELESTIAL TREE."
The Angel of Destruction
Lv/50
Lv/1
Lv/59



I'M HAPPY FOR BOTH OF US, TAMOTSU...!!



GOOD ...!!

...IF YOU OWE THANKS TO ANYBODY, IT'S MANAMI-KUN.
DON'T I KNOW IT! I'M TREATING HER TO LUNCH AFTER THIS YOU GUYS WANNA COME?
OH SURE! ♡
Of course, you two pay your own way!
eh..
YO. THANKS FOR THIS. IT REALLY HELPED ME OUT.
PAT
MM? THAT GOES WITH-OUT SAYING!
JUST MAKE SURE YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER
OH-HO! ANY TIME YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, BRO! I'VE GOT A GODDESS ON MY SIDE!
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD THINGS WORKED OUT THE WAY THEY DID.
NOW I HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO STEAL "THE ANGEL OF DESTRUCTION" FROM YOU.
AFTER ALL, SHE'S MY DEAR COUSIN!

IF YOU'RE KIND TO THEM, THE GOD OF CARDS WILL BE ON YOUR SIDE.
LOOK AT ME. I'VE BEEN HELPED BY CARDS THAT WERE THROWN AWAY AND PIXIE CARDS.
The one that throws them away is?
.....
FEH!
WE'RE TOO OLD FOR FAIRY TALES!
IF I EVER GET ANY PIXIES, I'M DUMPIN' 'EM!

MY FATHER DIED...
...IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 10 YEARS AGO...
...THE RANDOM VICTIM OF A MURDERER, A YOUNG MAN WHO GOT HOLD OF A GUN AND WANTED TO USE IT ON THE FIRST PERSON HE RAN INTO.
DARLING, STAY AWAKE! YOU HAVE TO...
AH...
PLEASE, CALM DOWN!
SOME-ONE HE HAD NO CON-NEC-TION WITH.
CRISIS 9
AND AS MY FATHER BREATHED HIS LAST...
BREATHED MY FIRST.
AAAAA

HEY! MANAMI, LET'S GO!
COMING!
AFTER THAT
...SAHGAN DIDN'T APPEAR IN MY DREAMS LIKE HE USUALLY DOES FOLLOWING A MATCH. INSTEAD, TAMOTSU DID.
IN THE DREAM, WE WERE BOTH KIDS.
...PLAYING A GAME WE'D NEVER GET TIRED OF.

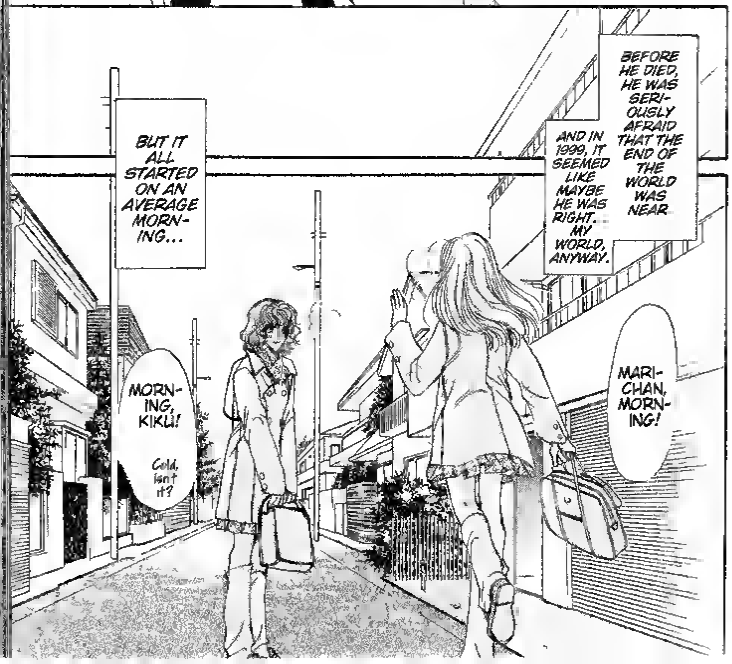
9 CRISIS

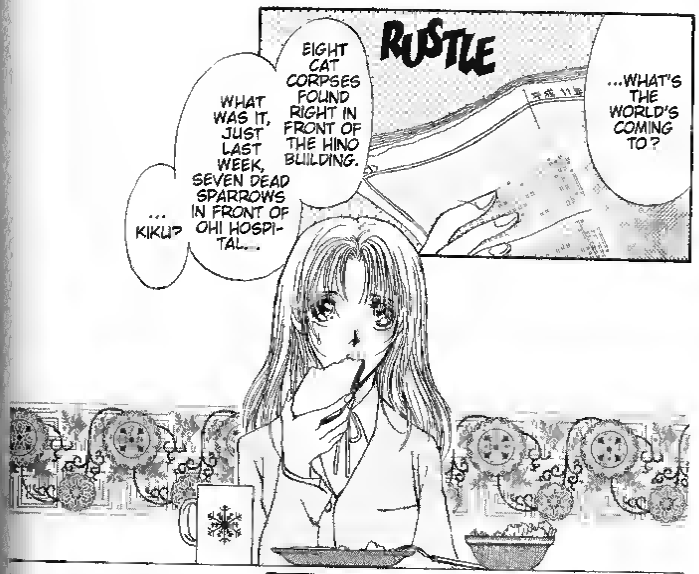
IT'S ODD.

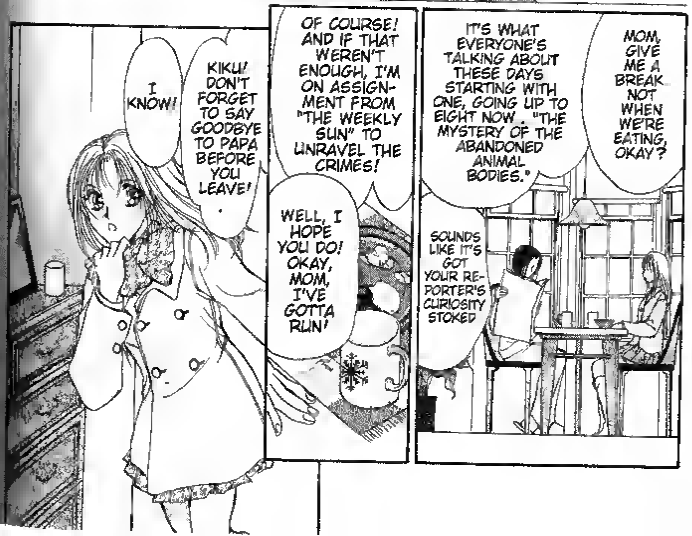
SOMEHOW, I REMEMBER, THE MOMENT I WAS BORN...

...I WAS ENGULFED IN A BIG GLOBE OF LIGHT.

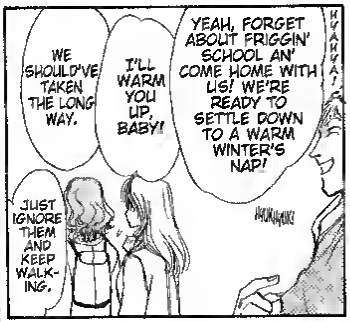
TA TA TA TA TA
I'm gonna be late!
I ONLY KNOW MY FATHER FROM PHOTOS.
I'M TOLD HE WAS A FAIRLY WELL-KNOWN HYPNOTIST.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, PAPA.

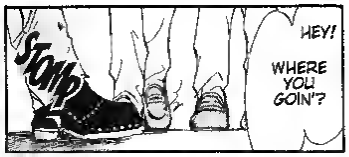

BUT IT ALL STARTED ON AN AVERAGE MORNING...
MORNING, KIKU!
Cold, isn't it?
AND IN 1999, IT SEEMED LIKE MAYBE HE WAS RIGHT. MY WORLD, ANYWAY.
BEFORE HE DIED, HE WAS SERIOUSLY AFRAID THAT THE END OF THE WORLD WAS NEAR.
MARI-CHAN, MORNING!


RUSTLE
...WHAT'S THE WORLD'S COMING TO?
EIGHT CAT CORPSES FOUND RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE HINO BUILDING.
WHAT WAS IT, JUST LAST WEEK, SEVEN DEAD SPARROWS IN FRONT OF OHI HOSPITAL...
... KIKU?


I KNOW!
KIKU! DON'T FORGET TO SAY GOODBYE TO PAPA BEFORE YOU LEAVE!
OF COURSE! AND IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, I'M ON ASSIGNMENT FROM "THE WEEKLY SUN" TO UNRAVEL THE CRIMES!
WELL, I HOPE YOU DO! OKAY, MOM, I'VE GOTTA RUN!
IT'S WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THESE DAYS STARTING WITH ONE, GOING UP TO EIGHT NOW... "THE MYSTERY OF THE ABANDONED ANIMAL BODIES."
MOM, GIVE ME A BREAK NOT WHEN WE'RE EATING, OKAY?
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GOT YOUR REPORTER'S CURIOSITY STOKED

COME ON, GIRLS, BE NICE!

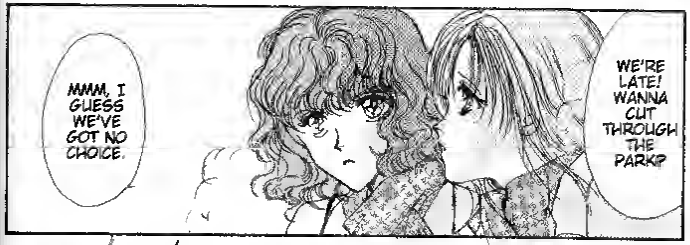

WE SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE LONG WAY.
I'LL WARM YOU UP, BABY!
YEAH, FORGET ABOUT FRIGGIN' SCHOOL AN' COME HOME WITH US! WE'RE READY TO SETTLE DOWN TO A WARM WINTER'S NAP!
HYAHAHA!
JUST IGNORE THEM AND KEEP WALKING.
HUHUHU!

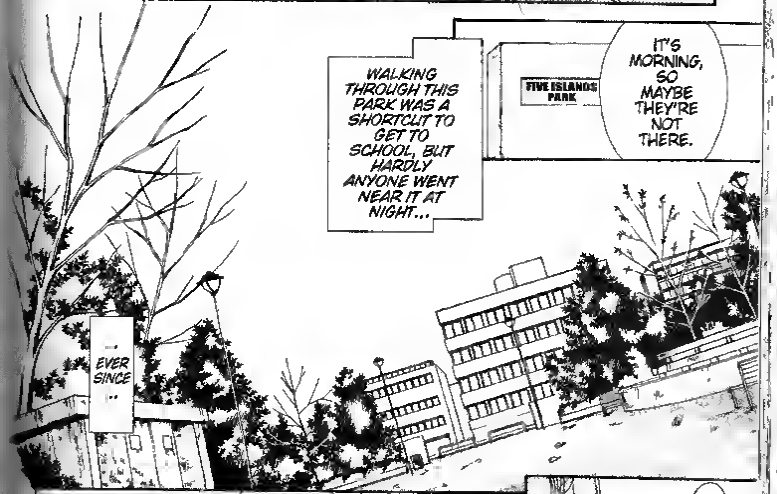

STOMP
HEY! WHERE YOU GOIN'?

S-STOP IT, PLEASE!
AL-RIGHT, I'LL TAKE HER THEN!
MAN, WE GOT SOME GRADE A GOODS HERE! I WANNA BE WITH THIS ONE, DO A LITTLE SPOONIN'...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? THESE ARE MY FRIENDS.

NOW THAT AIN'T FRIENDLY..
WHAT'S THAT YOU GOT? COOL, A COMPUTER, HUH? LEMME SEE IT.
NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!

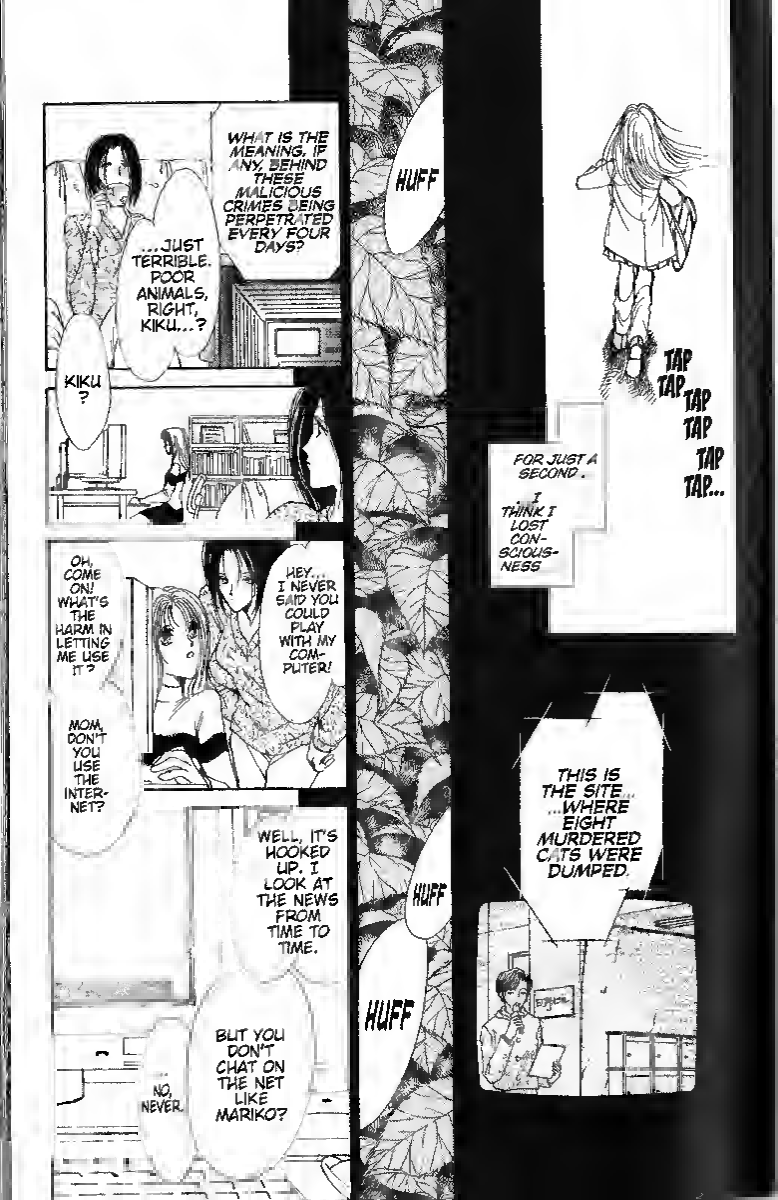

MMM, I GUESS WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
WE'RE LATE! WANNA CUT THROUGH THE PARK?


FIVE ISLANDS PARK
IT'S MORNING, SO MAYBE THEY'RE NOT THERE.
WALKING THROUGH THIS PARK WAS A SHORTCUT TO GET TO SCHOOL, BUT HARDLY ANYONE WENT NEAR IT AT NIGHT...
..EVER SINCE..

HYAHAHA
...IT BECAME THE FAVORITE HAUNT FOR THESE KINDS OF PEOPLE.
FORGET ABOUT IT! YOU'RE GONNA CATCH THE FLU OR SOMETHIN'!
YOU GOIN' TO SCHOOL IN THIS COLD?
HEY, GIRLS!
THUMP

I JUST BOUGHT IT SO I COULD GO ONLINE AND IT'S CHEAPER IF YOU GET TWO!
heh heh!
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW GOOD YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER... YOU EVEN HAVE THE SAME STYLE CELL PHONE!
Nothing!
I JUST BOUGHT IT, SO NO WAY WAS I GONNA LET THAT LOSER GET HIS GRUBBY PAWS ON IT!
FINE! I HELD ON TO IT FOR DEAR LIFE!
ANYWAY, IS YOUR LAPTOP OKAY?
KIKU? WHAT'S WRONG?
huh?
...THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU GUYS MET ON THE INTERNET, DIDN'T YOU?
YEP! FIRST WE USED "HANDLE NAMES," YOU KNOW, LIKE PEN NAMES. THAT WAS ALL WE KNEW ABOUT EACH OTHER, BUT WE KEPT MAILING BACK AND FORTH AND EVENTUALLY FIGURED OUT WE WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL.
RIGHT?
UH-HUH.
IT'S LIKE YOU BECOME ANOTHER PERSON.
YOU SHOULD TRY IT, KIKU. TALKING TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW AND USING A FAKE NAME ON THE NET IS FUN.

YOU WANNA SLEEP IT OFF AT THE POLICE STATION?
SHEE
YOU DRUNKS ARE THE ONLY PAIN IN THE BUTT HERE!
SAY WHAT...?!
AW, SHEE. WE GOT A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?! PAIN IN THE BUTT!
KUZUMI-SAN!
KUZUMI-SAN...
It was fun 'til he showed up.
Let's blow this frickin' joint.
...TCH.
RUFFLE
I'm sorry.
I WORRY ABOUT YOU
YEAH, WELL, THEY CRASH IN AN OLD BUILDING NEAR HERE, SO YOU'VE GOT'TA BE ON GUARD, EVEN IN THE MORNING!
WE THOUGHT IT'D BE SAFE IN THE MORNING.
HOK HOK
DOPES!
THANK YOU...
?!
YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL! YOU KNOW THIS PLACE IS INFAMOUS FOR BEING "CREEP CENTRAL!"
We were lucky there were only a few of them this time.


...JUST TERRIBLE. POOR ANIMALS, RIGHT, KIKU...?
WHAT IS THE MEANING, IF ANY, BEHIND THESE MALICIOUS CRIMES BEING PERPETRATED EVERY FOUR DAYS?
KIKU ?
HUFF
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP...
FOR JUST A SECOND. I THINK I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS
OH, COME ON! WHAT'S THE HARM IN LETTING ME USE IT?
HEY... I NEVER SAID YOU COULD PLAY WITH MY COMPUTER!
MOM, DON'T YOU USE THE INTERNET?
WELL, IT'S HOOKED UP. I LOOK AT THE NEWS FROM TIME TO TIME.
BUT YOU DON'T CHAT ON THE NET LIKE MARIKO?
NO, NEVER.
HUFF
HUFF
THIS IS THE SITE... ...WHERE EIGHT MURDERED CATS WERE DUMPED.
...I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
...BUT I'M TOO LATE..
KUZUMI-SAN ALREADY BELONGS TO MARIKO...
FOO
WHAT HAPPENED...?
KIKU, WHAT'S WRONG?
GET A MOVE ON, OR WE'LL BE WAY LATE!

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW ...
MARIKO, WHAT'S WRONG?! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHERE ARE YOU...?
CLICK
.. BUT IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO MARIKO! I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR HER!
EH? AH! KIKU, WAIT!
KIKU!
BAM!!
MARIKO! WHAT HAPPENED?!
WHERE ARE YOU?

EVEN THE IDEA JUST GIVES ME THE WILLIES...
...TALKING TO SOMEONE WHOSE AGE, NAME, FACE I DIDN'T KNOW..
HELLO?
HI! THAT'S MY PHONE!
R R R R
COME HERE, KIKU, I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU!
IS THAT RIGHT?!
MAYBE IT'S THE GENERATION GAP, YOU KNOW, REBELLING AGAINST EVERYTHING YOUNG PEOPLE DO
....ME...
MARIKO..? IS THAT YOU?!
EH... W..IT... ...WHO IS THIS?!
...HELP ...ME

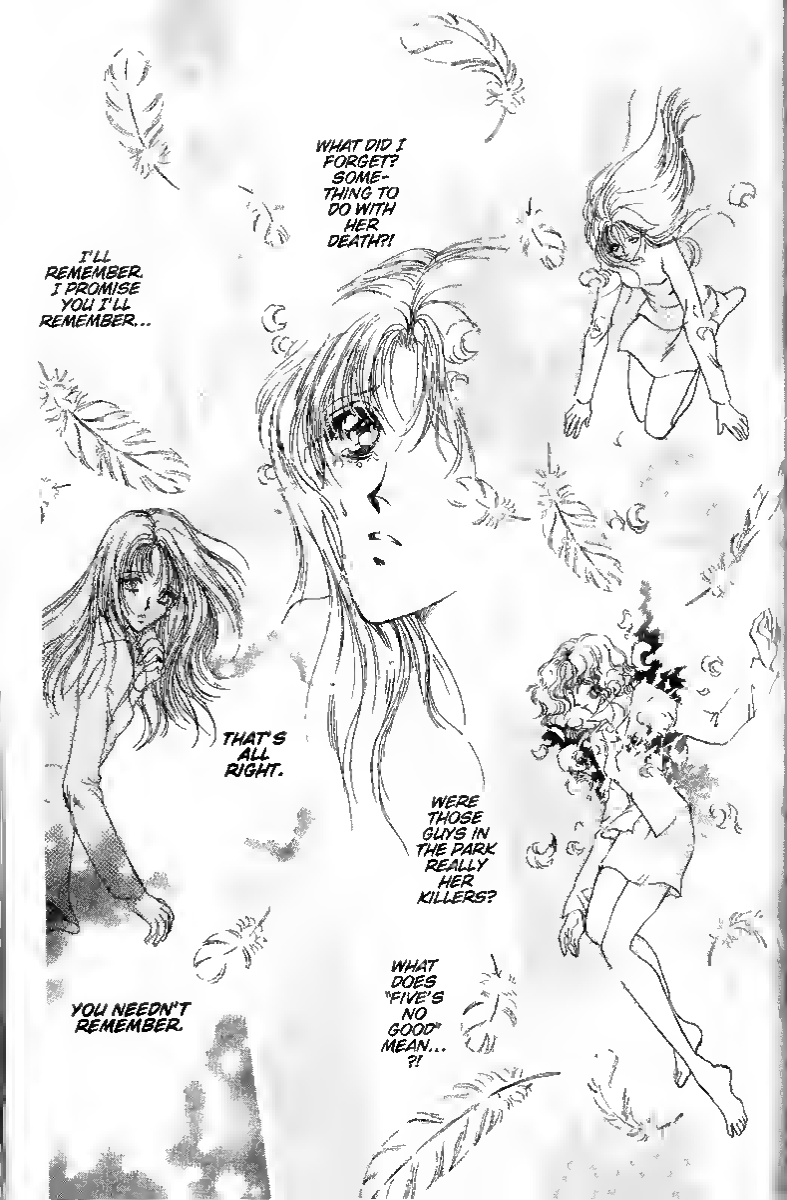
KIKU!
BUZZ
...KU...
KIKU
...
BUZZ
BUZZ
FEELING DIZZY...
THAT'S RIGHT. OH, THANK GOD YOU WEREN'T HURT. YOU MUST HAVE FAINTED.
...MOM?
I...
THAT'S RIGHT! MARIKO!!
YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE YET!
BUZZ
BUZZ
...WHAT'S THAT CROWD LOOKING AT? WHERE'S MARIKO...?

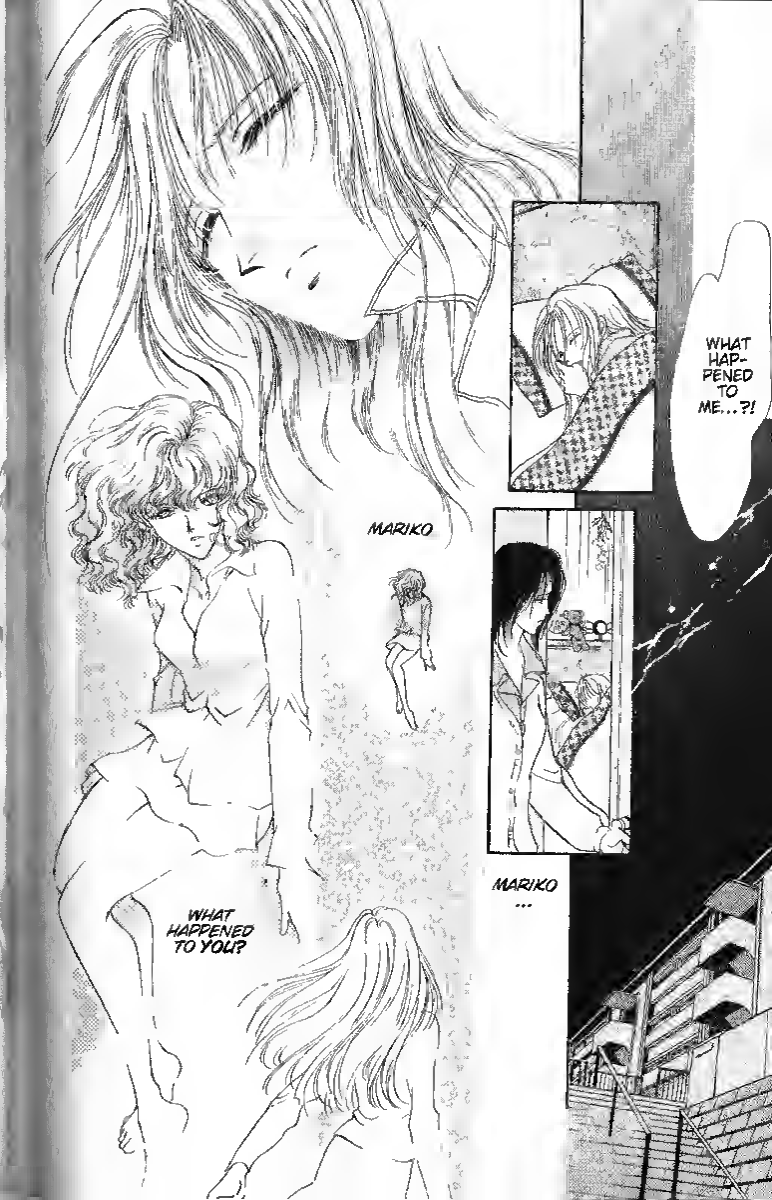
FWISH
...EH...?
HUH...?
WHUMP
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
KLAPP
WHAT COULD'VE...
DIZZY
WHUD
OH..
I'M SORRY...

MARIKO! MARIKO?!
MARIKO!
STAY BACK!
KEEP OUT
LET GO OF ME! SHE'S MY...
YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP BACK TOO.
WHY, MARIKO?! WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?!
KUZUMI-SAN!
MARIKO!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE IN THE PARK?!
THEY'RE OUT OF THE PICTURE, EITHER ON PAINT THINNER OR DRUGS
AND THEY STABBED HER IN SOME KIND OF FRENZY? LOOKS LIKE SHE BLED OUT...

...WHAT...?! "FIVE'S NO GOOD?!" WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
AH, KUZUMI-SAN! JUST NOW I HEARD SOMEONE BEHIND ME...
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOOO!!
THROB
?!
AND WHAT WAS THAT VOICE I JUST HEARD..?
WHAT...
I REMEMBER BUMPING INTO SOMEONE, BUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT...?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? WHY DID I COLLAPSE BEFORE?
...WHAT... WAS THAT?
KIKU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

?!
USE-LESS!
FIVE'S NO GOOD!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
KUZUMI-SAN..
KIKU-CHAN!
KUZUMI-SAN.. MARIKO, MARIKO'S
HOW DID IT HAPPEN ...?
WHY? WHY WAS SHE EVEN HERE?!
...NOT GONNA WORK!
MUTTER


WHAT DID I FORGET? SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER DEATH?!
I'LL REMEMBER. I PROMISE YOU I'LL REMEMBER...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
WERE THOSE GUYS IN THE PARK REALLY HER KILLERS?
WHAT DOES "FIVE'S NO GOOD" MEAN...?!
YOU NEEDN'T REMEMBER.


MARIKO
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...?!
MARIKO ...

JUST SLEEP... AND COME TO ME.

CRE...AK

KIKU?

WHY DON'T YOU GET BACK IN BED? AFTER WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH LAST NIGHT...

IS THAT DATA ...

...ON THE ANIMAL KILLINGS?

SHOW ME.

...I KNOW.

AL-RIGHT, AL-READY ...

KIKU ...?

TAK TAK TAK

A: WHY DID S/HE DO IT IN "5"?

D: WHAT HAPPENED TO "9"?

P: WHAT HAPPENED TO "9"?

F: WHAT HAPPENED TO "9"?

Y: WHAT HAPPENED TO "9"?

OK, HERE'S AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT MY HOMEPAGE

MAKOTO TATENO'S OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE

[EGGS N' THINGS]

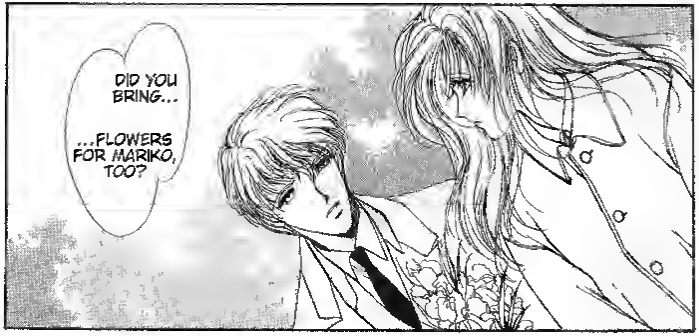
HTTP://WWW.NETLAPUTAN.E.JP/TENNIOU/

THIS IS DATED AFTER BAKES TOKYO'S BEEN COLLECTED UP 'TIL NOW AS WELL AS NEWS, GALLERY FULL OF PREVIEW ART ETC.

AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE IS NEWER-BEFORE-PUBLISHED TATENO MANGA! POSTED ON THE MESSAGE BOARD. IF YOU USE THE INTERNET, AT ALL, STOP BY (HEART)

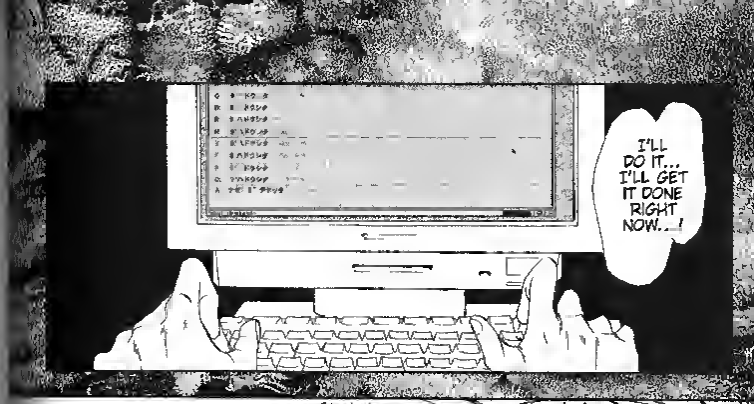
YOU CAN ALSO SEE PART OF THE FC JOURNAL

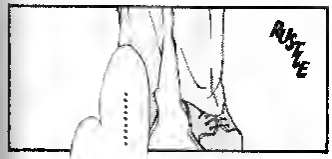
NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS FROM THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE PUBLICATION. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SITE IS NO LONGER VALID.


DID YOU BRING...
...FLOWERS FOR MARIKO, TOO?

KU-ZUMI-SAN...?

...I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.


I'LL DO IT... I'LL GET IT DONE RIGHT NOW...!


RUSTLE

.....
KIKU... CHAN?

IT STARTED...
...ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, AT POINT "A" HERE, WITH THE DISCOVERY OF A MURDERED DOG.
FOUR DAYS LATER, AT POINT "B," TWO CATS WERE FOUND.
FOUR DAYS AFTER THAT, IT WAS THREE BIRDS AT POINT "C."
AND THAT'S HOW IT CONTINUED, EVERY FOUR DAYS, WITH THE NUMBER OF KILLED ANIMALS INCREASING BY ONE EACH TIME. I CAN'T HELP THINKING THEY WERE SOME KIND OF SACRIFICES.
THE LATEST WAS NUMBER EIGHT
IF YOU LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS...
...IT BECOMES CLEAR, DOESN'T IT, KUZUMI-SAN?

THE NEWS IS CHALKING IT UP TO THE "DEGENERATE STATE OF TODAY'S TEENAGERS."
THEY EVEN LUMPED IT IN WITH THOSE ANIMAL KILLINGS, PLAYING THE WHOLE THING UP LIKE IT'S SOME PASSING FAD...
...WHILE MARIKO'S GOING TO STAY DEAD FOREVER.
...I KNOW.
FOR THE MOMENT, THOUGH, THEY'RE STILL DRUGGED-OUT VEGETABLES...
SO IT SEEMS. ONE OF THEM WAS HOLDING THE WEAPON.
SO THOSE GUYS SHE WAS WITH WERE THE ONES WHO DID IT?
THAT MARIKO WAS KILLED LIKE THAT... SO BRUTALLY...
YOU DON'T SAY...
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME ORDER IN THE WAY THE DEAD ANIMALS WERE PLACED.
ACTUALLY, MY MOTHER'S A REPORTER FOR A MAGAZINE AND SHE'S INVESTIGATING IT.
WHO WOULD DO THAT? FOR WHAT GAIN?
BUT STILL, THAT ANIMAL BUSINESS IS WEIRD.

MY MOM TOLD ME, BUT WITHOUT A PENCIL AND PAPER, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
THEN WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LOAD OFF?
NOBODY'S USING THAT BUILDING NOW

TAK TAK
THIS IS...
...THE NINTH SPOT.

2
B
4
D
FIVE ISLANDS PARK
G
5
C
E
F
A
H
6
1
THE DEAD ANIMALS ARE BEING LEFT IN AND AROUND FIVE ISLANDS PARK.

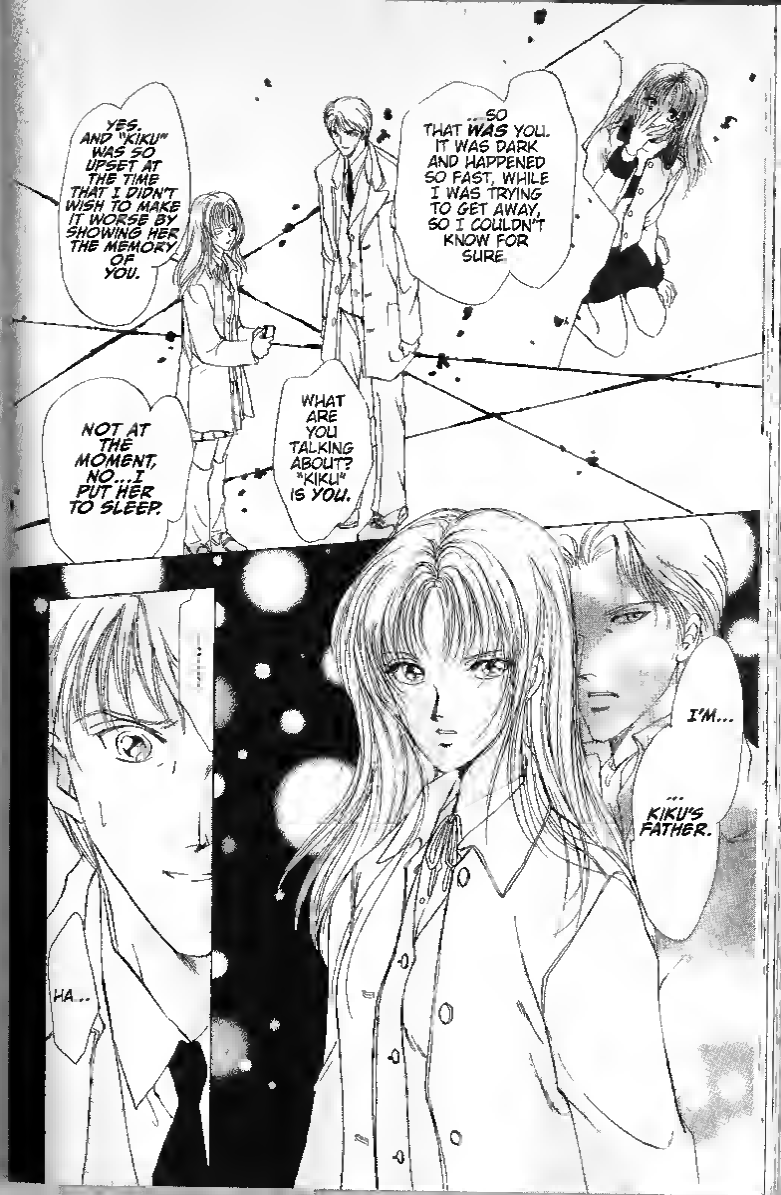
GRAB
!

...BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY THE NUMBERS ARE LINED UP LIKE THIS...
THE AREA IS DIVIDED INTO NINE SQUARES, SO THAT PART'S EASY TO GET...
HUH. I SEE.
MAYBE YOUR MOTHER WOULD BE BETTER OFF AS A DETECTIVE.
GASP
BUT ...
...IF YOU KNOW THIS MUCH, HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED YET?

WHA...
...I WAS LOOK-ING FOR THIS.
THIS IS MARIKO'S CELL PHONE, COR-RECT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU KNOW SHE AND I HAVE THE SAME MODEL...
CER-TAINLY. BUT THIS ONE ISN'T YOURS. RE-MEM-BER?
YOUR CELL PHONE WAS DE-STROYED WHEN YOU COL-LIDED WITH ME.
!

TAK TAK TAK
X: I'M GOING TO CARRY OUT THE NINTH SACRIFICE.
TAK TAK
X: THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE IT WITH THEIR OWN EYES, COME TO AREA NUMBER 9.
TWITCH
...
THERE IT IS.
SWISH
WHAT ARE YOU...?!
AH...

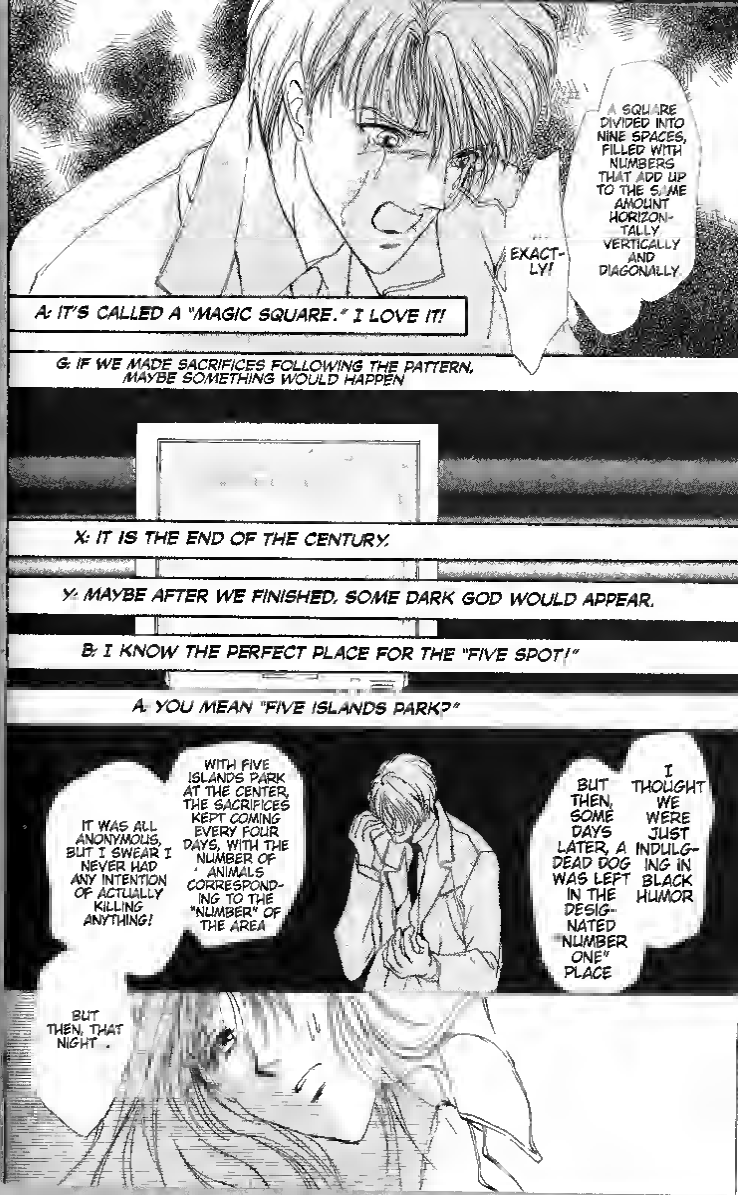
I DON'T KNOW WHO BEGAN... ...YOUR "SACRIFICE GAME"...
...BUT NUMBER NINE WAS YOUR TURN, WASN'T IT?
HAHAHA! YOU HAD ME FOR A SECOND THERE!
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN STILL HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR AT A TIME LIKE ...
YES, WELL ... ...I BELIEVE IT'S FUNNIER THAN YOUR JOKE.
YOUR SICK GAME.
ON MARIKO'S PHONE, NUMBER 9 IS THE SPEED-DIAL BUTTON FOR KIKU'S CELL PHONE. SEE HERE?
MARIKO PUSHED THIS BUTTON AS HARD AS SHE COULD, LEAVING A NAIL MARK.
SHE WASN'T JUST TRYING TO CALL OUT FOR HELP... ...BUT GIVING A HINT ABOUT HER KILLER.
IN THE PHONE-MAIL ALPHABET... "X" IS LOCATED ON BUTTON NUMBER 9.
SHE WAS POINTING OUT YOUR HANDLE NAME.


...SO THAT WAS YOU. IT WAS DARK AND HAPPENED SO FAST, WHILE I WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY, SO I COULDN'T KNOW FOR SURE.
YES, AND "KIKU" WAS SO UPSET AT THE TIME THAT I DIDN'T WISH TO MAKE IT WORSE BY SHOWING HER THE MEMORY OF YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? "KIKU" IS YOU.
NOT AT THE MOMENT, NO...I PUT HER TO SLEEP.
HA..
I'M... ... KIKU'S FATHER.

2 9 4
7 5 3
6 1 8
ONCE IN A WHILE, I'D TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE IN THE SITE'S CHAT ROOM
MY INTRO-DUCTION CAME FROM A WEB-SITE.
A: HEY, THIS SQUARE'S KIND OF COOL.
F: I BET WE COULD HAVE SOME REAL FUN WITH IT.
... YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A "MAGIC SQUARE"?
FROM THE DAY I SAW THAT FIG-URE.
AH ...
UNH ...
YOU'RE ... ... RIGHT.
IT ALL START-ED...
...WITH THE GAME

TELL ME, THE NIGHT MARIKO WAS MUR-DERED WERE ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN THE PARK PARTICI-PANTS IN THE GAME?
HEH ... HEH-HEH ...
FWUMP
WH
AK
PRE-CISELY!
!!

...MARIKO CALLED ME TO THE PARK.
MARIKO?
WHERE ARE YOU?
MARIKO...
...OVER HERE.
RIGHT HERE...
...KUZUMI-SAN.


A SQUARE DIVIDED INTO NINE SPACES, FILLED WITH NUMBERS THAT ADD UP TO THE SAME AMOUNT HORIZONTALLY VERTICALLY AND DIAGONALLY.
...EXACTLY!
A: IT'S CALLED A "MAGIC SQUARE." I LOVE IT!
G: IF WE MADE SACRIFICES FOLLOWING THE PATTERN, MAYBE SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN
X: IT IS THE END OF THE CENTURY.
Y: MAYBE AFTER WE FINISHED, SOME DARK GOD WOULD APPEAR.
B: I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE FOR THE "FIVE SPOT!"
A: YOU MEAN "FIVE ISLANDS PARK?"
I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST INDULGING IN BLACK HUMOR
BUT THEN, SOME DAYS LATER, A DEAD DOG WAS LEFT IN THE DESIGNATED "NUMBER ONE" PLACE
WITH FIVE ISLANDS PARK AT THE CENTER, THE SACRIFICES KEPT COMING EVERY FOUR DAYS, WITH THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS CORRESPONDING TO THE "NUMBER" OF THE AREA
IT WAS ALL ANONYMOUS, BUT I SWEAR I NEVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF ACTUALLY KILLING ANYTHING!
BUT THEN, THAT NIGHT...

...HER BIRTHDAY WAS IN SEPTEMBER.. THE NINTH MONTH OF THE YEAR.
...THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE WHOLE GAME. MARIKO DID THE SACRIFICES FOR "NUMBER 8".
...AND NOW SHE WAS ORDERING ME TO KILL NINE PEOPLE.
THE FINAL STAGE SHOULD BE DONE WITH HUMANS
DON'T BE STUPID! YOU THINK I'M GONNA KILL NINE PEOPLE HERE?!
HELL, I CAN'T KILL ANYBODY!!
WHAT?! YOU SPINELESS, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING COMPUTER GEEK!!
...
WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, PROVE ME WRONG!
HERE!
AT THAT MOMENT, I REMEMBERED...

W-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING...?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THESE FOOLS ARE STONED OUT OF THEIR GOURDS ON DRUGS AND PAINT THINNER. THEY'RE TOTALLY OUT OF IT.
SO IF YOU ACT NOW... ...YOU CAN DO ANYTHING TO THEM...
..."X".
NUMBER "NINE" IS NEXT, ISN'T IT...?
...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW HER AS SHE REALLY WAS...

ON SEPTEMBER 9TH, TO BE PRECISE!
IT FEELS LIKE THE STARS ARE IN ALIGNMENT!
DON'T ... DO THIS.
YOU'RE THE PERFECT SACRIFICE
WITH ONE STROKE, I CAN FINALLY...
...BE FREE ...
DON'T...
... OF THE GAME!
DON'T KILL AGAIN!!
DON'T... KUZUMI-SAN.

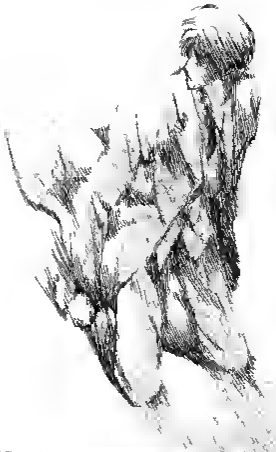
GRAB
SO I THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY TO GET OUT OF THIS IS TO KILL AGAIN!
AND YOU CAN HELP ME, KIKU-CHAN!
WHAT HAPPENED TO NUMBER 7? WHAT HAPPENED TO NUMBER 8? WHAT HAPPENED TO NUMB
"9"
"THE PLACE WAS WRONG!" "IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN AT NUMBER 5!" "THE MAGIC CIRCLE'S NOT DONE YET!"
"9"ハドウ
A: WHY WAS "9"
BUT THE OTHER PLAYERS WOULDN'T LET IT GO!
...I THOUGHT THAT "9" WOULD SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GAME AND END IT THERE. THAT I COULD WALK AWAY FROM IT.
YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN SEPTEMBER TOO, RIGHT?

DO YOU WISH TO SEE WHAT AWAITS YOU FOLLOWING YOUR COMPLETION OF THE GAME?! THEN FEAST YOUR EYES UPON IT!
...AND YET YOU PLAY THIS GAME, USING THE END OF THE CENTURY AS AN EX-CUSE ...
...WHEN THE REAL REASON YOU DIDN'T DROP OUT WAS YOUR OWN WEAK-NESS.
THE END OF THE CEN-TURY MEANS NO-THING!
DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT "9" IS THE FINAL NUM-BER?!

DON'T KILL MY FATHER AGAIN...!!
YOU'VE LIVED HARDLY MORE THAN A DOZEN YEARS ...
...WHA...?
SMACK

WHEEOO
WHEEOO
KIKU!
NO-THING... THERE'S NO-THING...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
...WHO AM I TALK-ING TO?
IT'S ME, MOM.
KIKU.

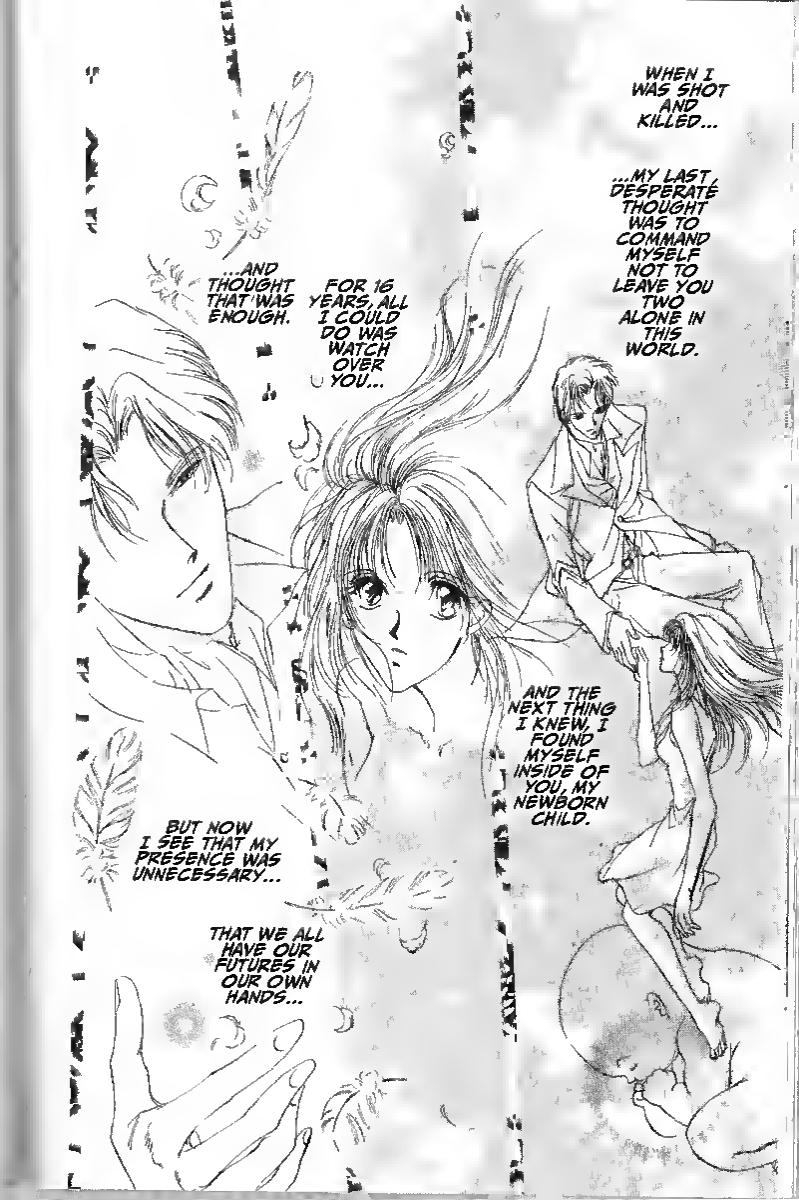
NOTHING.



LIFE IS PRECIOUS. BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, DIDN'T YOU...?!
KIKU...
...MOM...
DID YOU KNOW? ABOUT PAPA...?
A LONG TIME AGO...
...WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT TWO YEARS OLD, HE "APPEARED" ONCE. AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T REALLY BELIEVE IT, BUT...
BUT PAPA REALLY WAS HERE FOR ME...
I BELIEVED WE LIVED IN A TERRIFYING AGE.

THAT WAS THE FATED NUMBER NINE.
ALL RIGHT, ON YOUR FEET.
...MY FAULT. IT WASN'T ALL MY FAULT.
YOU LEFT YOUR CELL PHONE AT HOME. I PICKED UP WHEN IT RANG AND COULD HEAR EVERYTHING THAT WAS HAPPENING HERE, SO I PHONED THE POLICE.
ONCE DA... RIGHT I MEAN, ONCE I GOT A HOLD OF MARIKO'S CELL, I PUSHED THE SPEED-DIAL BUTTON TO CALL MY PHONE...
IF THEY DIDN'T ACTUALLY START PLAYING... I WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE THIS! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE THAT'S PUNISHED...?!
I DIDN'T DO IT ALL MYSELF! IF I'D NEVER SEEN THAT "MAGIC SQUARE"...IF THEY DIDN'T START TALKING ABOUT THAT GAME..
DON'T SAY IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S FAULT OR THEY INFLUENCED YOU TO DO IT.
WHEN SOMEONE DIES, THE ONES WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND ARE MISERABLE.
MY PAPA WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY A THRILL-KILLER.
DON'T LAY THE BLAME ON ANYONE ELSE.

PAPA TOLD ME THIS ...
...RIGHT BEFORE PUTTING ME TO "SLEEP" WITH HYPNOTISM.
BUT IT DIDN'T WORK COMPLETELY, DID IT?!
.....
WELL ...
YOUR FATHER WAS A GOOD HYPNOTIST... ...BUT HE WASN'T PERFECT. SOMETIMES PEOPLE WOULDN'T GO UNDER OR HE COULDN'T GET THEM TO "WAKE UP."
IN THAT CASE, MAYBE KUZUMI-SAN...
..WILL NEVER WAKE UP FROM HIS DREAM OF "NOTHINGNESS."
AND NOW, FOR MY LAST ACT OF HYPNOTISM...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, LIFE PREVAILS.
YOU ARE PROOF OF THIS, MY DAUGHTER.


WHEN I WAS SHOT AND KILLED...
...MY LAST DESPERATE THOUGHT WAS TO COMMAND MYSELF NOT TO LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE IN THIS WORLD.
FOR 16 YEARS, ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH OVER YOU...
...AND THOUGHT THAT WAS ENOUGH.
AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I FOUND MYSELF INSIDE OF YOU, MY NEWBORN CHILD.
BUT NOW I SEE THAT MY PRESENCE WAS UNNECESSARY...
THAT WE ALL HAVE OUR FUTURES IN OUR OWN HANDS...

WILL MANAMI BE READY TO TAKE ON JAPAN'S NUMBER ONE PLAYER? FIND OUT IN NOVEMBER!

KING OF CARDS

Volume 2

By Makoto Tateno. A lovesick Manami passes out when she sees the object of her affection with another girl. When she wakes up, she finds herself in the world of the cards, where she is forced to compete against Sahgan, her usual ally. In this realm, the matches aren't simply imagined: players summon actual monsters and gods to do physical battle!

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CRISIS 9: THE END

THE NEWEST PLAYER IN THE GAME IS ABOUT TO CHANGE THE RULES!

MANAMI DOESN'T KNOW A LOT ABOUT "CHAOS," A POPULAR TRADING CARD GAME AT SCHOOL. WANTING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GAME, SHE PURCHASES A BEGINNER'S SET THAT CONTAINS "SAHGAN THE SORCERER," RAREST OF ALL CHAOS CARDS. NOW NOT ONLY DOES EVERY FANATICAL CHAOS PLAYER AROUND CHALLENGE HER, BUT SHE ALSO STARTS HAVING VISIONS OF SAHGAN HIMSELF!

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